



September 8, 2022

The Honorable Gerry Connolly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2238 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Connolly:

On behalf of the Partnership for Public Service, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to better government and stronger democracy, thank you for your steadfast leadership in working to uphold the merit system principles for the federal workforce. The Partnership urges Members of Congress to vote in favor of the Preventing a Patronage System Act (H.R. 302) as a clear statement against returning to the days when hiring and firing decisions were based on political favoritism instead of an individual's skills and abilities.

Our democracy is the envy of the world in large part because of its experienced and professional civil servants who pledge to uphold the Constitution and bring continuity of knowledge across presidential administrations. Endangering the skilled employees at the core of our government would not only further erode the critically low levels of trust in government but would harm the delivery of crucial services to the American people, ranging from ensuring military readiness to supporting our farmers.

At the same time, the Partnership stands ready to work with both sides of the aisle in Congress to ensure that our federal government is able to recruit, train and retain the skilled workforce necessary to tackle the rapidly evolving challenges that our nation faces now and into the future. Regardless of whether government is big or small, we need to make sure it is nimble in attracting top talent and creating a customer-focused, innovative environment where all employees—including senior career and political leaders—are held accountable for high expectations of excellence in service.

The Partnership agrees with you that day in and day out, federal employees have proven that they will faithfully serve the nation no matter how difficult the circumstances. We share your goal of creating a federal workforce for the future—one that maintains civil service protections for our country's over two million civil servants—and stand ready to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Stier".

Max Stier  
President and CEO  
Partnership for Public Service