

Good evening,

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) respectfully urges all members of the Oversight and Accountability Committee to oppose the “Protecting Taxpayers’ Wallets Act,” which is scheduled to be considered during tomorrow’s mark-up. The bill is a thinly veiled attack on dedicated federal workers including air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals represented by NATCA.

The bill threatens to undermine the effective and efficient use of official time. For example, it would require labor unions to pay a myriad of new fees to conduct regular representational business. Official time is a critical tool used by NATCA in its work with the FAA. Official time allows workers to engage in representational responsibilities on behalf of fellow employees. Despite rhetoric to the contrary, federal law already prohibits engaging in political activity or internal union matters while on official time.

Congress has repeatedly rejected previous attempts to eliminate official time on a bipartisan basis. At a time when our aviation system is already under stress, this legislation would undercut the voice aviation safety professionals. It would make it more difficult to quickly and efficiently resolve disputes, leading to costly arbitrations.

If you have additional questions or would like more information, please reach out to us directly. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

NATCA Government Affairs

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