



May 18, 2026

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform

The Honorable Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Garcia,

On behalf of the over 150,000 federal employees represented by the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), including over 29,000 employed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), I write to urge the Committee to favorably report H.R. 8844, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer Retirement Technical Corrections Act. This bipartisan legislation ensures that the federal government fulfills the promise it made to nearly 1,500 Customs and Border Protection Officers (CBPOs) when they were hired.

In 2007, Congress passed, and President Bush signed, legislation that made CBPOs eligible for the 1.7 percent enhanced law enforcement officer (LEO) retirement system. To help with the transition to this new retirement system, any officer hired before July 6, 2008, who retired before serving 20 years under the new retirement system would be eligible to receive a proportional enhanced retirement benefit for their post-July 2008 years of service and would be exempt from the new mandatory retirement age. After a decade of administering this benefit, CBP confirmed in 2021 that its own internal guidance had misapplied the law, and the agency rescinded eligibility for approximately 1,500 officers who had been told at hiring that they qualified for the proportional annuity. These officers had planned their careers, and their retirements, around a promise the federal government has since taken back.

At its heart, this is a bill about fairness. If signed into law, H.R. 8844 would correct this error and allow the affected employees to retire, as promised, with the higher proportional annuity rate and without requiring 20 years of covered service. The bill also directs the Government Accountability Office to review CBP's hiring practices and internal controls to prevent a similar administrative failure in the future; an oversight provision the Committee has previously endorsed.

This Committee has seen, and support, this legislation in the past. On April 10, 2024, the Committee favorably passed an identical bill, H.R. 7869, by an overwhelming 41-0 vote. The text of H.R. 8844 has also seen broad bipartisan support in the Senate. Their version, S. 727, was

unanimously passed by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) and later passed the full Senate by unanimous consent on December 16, 2025.

Today the Committee has a clear opportunity to send this long-overdue correction to the House floor. I urge you and your colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 8844.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doreen P. Greenwald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Doreen P. Greenwald
National President