

Kenneth J. Thomas
National President



Kathryn E. Hensley
National Secretary/Treasurer

May 31, 2019

U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform
Subcommittee on Government Operations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Connolly:

I am writing to correct responses I gave to a line of questioning at the hearing titled “The Administration’s War on a Merit Based Civil Service,” held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

In response to questions by Congresswoman Norton about the Office of Personnel Management’s (OPM) employee engagement and whether Margaret Weichert, the Deputy Director for Management for the Office of Management and Budget and the Acting Director of OPM, had been in touch with NARFE prior to the hearing, I answered that OPM had been in touch with us “today” by “telephone.” I believed my responses were true at the time. However, my answer was based on a miscommunication with my staff, and was therefore inaccurate. For that reason, I write to request that the following corrected response(s) be entered into the hearing record:

OPM’s Deputy Chief of Staff, Stephen Billy, reached out to NARFE the previous week regarding the proposed merger of OPM into GSA, and had a discussion via **telephone** with NARFE’s advocacy staff. Our advocacy staff also discussed the proposed reorganization with career staff at OMB’s Office of Performance and Personnel Management prior to that time. Ms. Weichert has not reached out to me personally, and we have not had a conversation about the proposed merger.

We also received notice from an OPM employee that OPM employees were only just contacted about the proposed merger **today** (the day of the hearing) via e-mail.

I will note that since the hearing, we have been contacted by OPM to set up a meeting between myself and Ms. Weichert to discuss the proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact NARFE Staff VP for Advocacy Jessica Klement at jklement@narfe.org.

Sincerely,

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Thomas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Thomas
National President