

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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July 13, 2020

Ms. Jacqueline Simon
Director of Public Policy
American Federation of Government Employees
80 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Simon:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the hearing that was held on Thursday, June 25, 2020, titled "Frontline Feds: Serving the Public During a Pandemic."

In order to ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written response to the Committee on or before Monday, July 27, 2020, including each question in full as well as the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Amy Stratton, Deputy Clerk, at Amy.Stratton@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Elisa LaNier, Chief Clerk, at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Jody B. Hice, Ranking Member

Questions for Ms. Jacqueline Simon
Director of Public Policy, American Federation of Government Employees
Questions from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly

June 25, 2020, Hearing: “Frontline Feds: Serving the Public During a Pandemic”

1. While your members ensured a continuity of government services, how has the Administration engaged with AFGE to ensure your members’ health and safety needs are met?
2. Have federal agencies placed enough emphasis on having adequate PPE and other resources needed to fight the spread of the virus before returning federal employees to workstations?
3. What role should federal workers have in decisions on agency plans for reopening workstations? How can we ensure workers have adequate input in these decisions?
4. In cases where your members have children at home and they are required to report to their offices—and there isn’t daycare available or there isn’t school—what are they doing to get by each day? Was there anything in the federal guidance to support or assist employees who have children or other dependents?
5. Has the government communicated a contingency plan to your organization or your members should a spike in coronavirus occur?
6. Do you think that frontline federal workers should receive hazard pay, given the risks they face from the coronavirus pandemic? If so, why?
7. Should there be a presumption that federal employees who have tested positive for coronavirus and who are required to report to an office or engage directly with the public, contracted the virus at work? If so, why?
8. How should agencies continue to use telework during and after this global health crisis?
9. What are the remaining barriers to utilizing telework in the future? Are those barriers technological, or cultural reasons, or both?