

Representative _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative _____:

As a federal employee, I am writing to urge you to slow down the Bush Administration's risky and costly A-76 privatization initiative, which seeks to turn at least 850,000 federal employee jobs over to private contractors. The Administration has even proposed using private collection companies to pursue taxpayers who have outstanding tax liabilities. I urge you to cosponsor the "Truthfulness, Responsibility, and Accountability in Contracting" (TRAC) Act, and to vote for pro-taxpayer amendments opposing the Administration's aggressive push to privatize the federal government.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) continues to pressure all federal agencies to privatize federal government work even though there is virtually no oversight of federal contracting, and there are no reporting systems in place to determine whether privatization is achieving real cost savings or improved government services for the taxpayers.

OMB's latest and even more aggressive privatization initiative comes after the House of Representatives voted 261 to 166 last year to repudiate OMB's quota approach to privatizing 425,000 federal employee jobs. Additionally, the final FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act requires OMB to report to Congress on the research and analysis used to develop the privatization quotas. Yet, despite the strong opposition in Congress, OMB continues to enforce the quotas on all departments and agencies, including agencies charged with securing our homeland defense. And OMB continues to allow agencies to privatize these federal jobs without first holding a public-private competition to determine what the best deal is for the taxpayers.

Before contracting out more government work to the private sector, the taxpayers deserve to know exactly how their tax dollars are being spent on contractors. That is why I urge you to cosponsor the TRAC Act (the bill sponsors are Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Albert Wynn). The TRAC Act would require agencies to implement reliable systems to track whether contracting efforts are saving money, whether contractors are delivering services on-time and efficiently. The bill would also ensure that federal employees are given an opportunity to compete in defense of their jobs before work is arbitrarily privatized.

I strongly urge you to work with your colleagues in Congress to slow down OMB's quota-driven rush to privatize the federal government. Please write me back at the address below and let me know if you will cosponsor the TRAC Act and if you will oppose these privatization initiatives. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Senator _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator _____:

As a federal employee, I am writing to urge you to slow down the Bush Administration's risky and costly A-76 privatization initiative, which seeks to turn at least 850,000 federal employee jobs over to private contractors. The Administration has even proposed using private collection companies to pursue taxpayers who have outstanding tax liabilities. I urge you to cosponsor the "Truthfulness, Responsibility, and Accountability in Contracting" (TRAC) Act, and to vote for pro-taxpayer amendments opposing the Administration's aggressive push to privatize the federal government.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) continues to pressure all federal agencies to privatize federal government work even though there is virtually no oversight of federal contracting, and there are no reporting systems in place to determine whether privatization is achieving real cost savings or improved government services for the taxpayers.

OMB's latest and even more aggressive privatization initiative comes after the House of Representatives voted 261 to 166 last year to repudiate OMB's quota approach to privatizing 425,000 federal employee jobs. Additionally, the final FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act requires OMB to report to Congress on the research and analysis used to develop the privatization quotas. Yet, despite the strong opposition in Congress, OMB continues to enforce the quotas on all departments and agencies, including agencies charged with securing our homeland defense. And OMB continues to allow agencies to privatize these federal jobs without first holding a public-private competition to determine what the best deal is for the taxpayers.

Before contracting out more government work to the private sector, the taxpayers deserve to know exactly how their tax dollars are being spent on contractors. That is why I urge you to cosponsor the TRAC Act (the bill sponsors are Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Albert Wynn). The TRAC Act would require agencies to implement reliable systems to track whether contracting efforts are saving money and whether contractors are delivering services on-time and efficiently. The bill would also ensure that federal employees are given an opportunity to compete in defense of their jobs before work is arbitrarily privatized.

I strongly urge you to work with your colleagues in Congress to slow down OMB's quota-driven rush to privatize the federal government. Please write me back at the address below and let me know if you will cosponsor the TRAC Act and if you will oppose these privatization initiatives. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Representative _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative _____:

I am an employee at the Internal Revenue Service and I am writing to urge you to oppose the Bush Administration's plans to privatize thousands of IRS jobs. This privatization initiative will likely lead to the loss of many jobs in our state.

The IRS is working with contractors to develop a plan to privatize tax collection services, even though most in the IRS recognize that a pilot project to privatize tax collection several years ago was a costly disaster for the American taxpayers. The IRS also is attempting to privatize IRS Area Distribution Centers and the jobs of those who manage and maintain the IRS employee workstations (and risk giving contractors access to taxpayer data). And now, the IRS is undertaking an effort to privatize telephone tax law assistance. Under the new proposal, when a taxpayer calls the IRS to seek information about a certain tax provision, or how to fill out a form, instead of speaking with an IRS employee who is an expert in the area, that call could now be routed to a private contractor. Of course if that contractor gives out the wrong information, IRS employees will still be the ones blamed for the mistake.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of the privatization going on at the IRS and at other federal agencies. Under the Bush Administration's risky and costly new A-76 privatization initiative, at least 850,000 federal employee jobs will be opened up to private contractors. The rush to privatize the government continues despite the lack of any accountability or oversight of contractors. Before contracting out more government work to the private sector, the taxpayers deserve to know exactly how their tax dollars are being spent on contractors. From what we know, privatization is not saving money or improving government services for the taxpayers. Congress must act to slow down these risky anti-taxpayer privatization initiatives.

I urge you to cosponsor the "Truthfulness, Responsibility, and Accountability in Contracting" (TRAC) Act (the bill sponsors are Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Albert Wynn), which would require agencies to implement reliable systems to track whether contracting efforts are saving money and whether contractors are delivering services on-time and efficiently. The bill would also ensure that federal employees are given an opportunity to compete in defense of their jobs before work is arbitrarily privatized.

I also urge you to vote for amendments opposing the aggressive push to privatize IRS jobs and the rest of the federal government. Please write me back at the address below and let me know if you will cosponsor the TRAC Act and if you will oppose these privatization initiatives. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Senator _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator _____:

I am an employee at the Internal Revenue Service and I am writing to urge you to oppose the Bush Administration's plans to privatize thousands of IRS jobs. This privatization initiative will likely lead to the loss of many jobs in our state.

The IRS is working with contractors to develop a plan to privatize tax collection services, even though most in the IRS recognize that a pilot project to privatize tax collection several years ago was a costly disaster for the American taxpayers. The IRS also is attempting to privatize IRS Area Distribution Centers and the jobs of those who manage and maintain the IRS employee workstations (and risk giving contractors access to taxpayer data). And now, the IRS is undertaking an effort to privatize telephone tax law assistance. Under the new proposal, when a taxpayer calls the IRS to seek information about a certain tax provision, or how to fill out a form, instead of speaking with an IRS employee who is an expert in the area, that call could now be routed to a private contractor. Of course if that contractor gives out the wrong information, IRS employees will still be the ones blamed for the mistake.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of the privatization going on at the IRS and at other federal agencies. Under the Bush Administration's risky and costly new A-76 privatization initiative, at least 850,000 federal employee jobs will be opened up to private contractors. The rush to privatize the government continues despite the lack of any accountability or oversight of contractors. Before contracting out more government work to the private sector, the taxpayers deserve to know exactly how their tax dollars are being spent on contractors. From what we know, privatization is not saving money or improving government services for the taxpayers. Congress must act to slow down these risky anti-taxpayer privatization initiatives.

I urge you to cosponsor the "Truthfulness, Responsibility, and Accountability in Contracting" (TRAC) Act (the bill sponsors are Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Albert Wynn), which would require agencies to implement reliable systems to track whether contracting efforts are saving money and whether contractors are delivering services on-time and efficiently. The bill would also ensure that federal employees are given an opportunity to compete in defense of their jobs before work is arbitrarily privatized.

I also urge you to vote for amendments opposing the aggressive push to privatize IRS jobs and the rest of the federal government. Please write me back at the address below and let me know if you will cosponsor the TRAC Act and if you will oppose these privatization initiatives. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

As a federal employee and a resident of your district, I want to ask for your support for an important piece of legislation that was recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.Con.Res. 19 expresses the sense of Congress that the historic pay parity that has existed between civilian and military pay raises should continue in 2004. As you may know, although the President has recommended average 4.1% pay raises for the active duty military in 2004, he has only suggested a 2% pay raise for civilian federal employees.

Since it was signed into law by President G.W. Bush in 1991, the Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act (FEPCA) provided a remedy to close the pay gap between the public and the private sector. However, in the 12 years since it became law, FEPCA has never been fully implemented and federal employees continue to see the pay gap between the two sectors widen.

In these difficult times, it is essential that the men and women who protect and serve our country, in both the military and the civilian federal service, are provided with the resources that they need both to do their jobs and to provide for their families.

Federal employees are proud of the work that they do to protect and to serve the American public. I urge you to support both the civilian and the military men and women who serve our country every hour of the day, every day of the year, by providing adequate and appropriate pay raises for 2004, and by supporting H.Con. Res. 19.

Thank you for your consideration of this important Congressional Resolution. Please let me know if you will cosponsor H.Con.Res. 19.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

As a federal employee and a resident of your district, I want to ask for your support for an important piece of legislation that was recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 217, introduced by Representative Wexler (D-FL) and cosponsored by your colleagues from both parties, addresses the economic hardships faced by federal employees who are called-up for Reserve Military Duty or National Guard Service.

There are many federal employees who serve their country both in the military reserve or the National Guard and as civil servants. Federal employees, at a moment's notice, leave their families and jobs to defend our nation both on our nation's borders and overseas. However, unlike many companies in the private sector that honor their commitment to our men and women in uniform by providing full salaries to individuals who are, the federal government does not guarantee that employees will receive no less in pay and benefits than if they had not been deployed.

H.R. 217 would address this unfair situation by ensuring that any federal employee who is called-up for Reserve Military Duty or National Guard service would continue to receive no less in pay and benefits than if they had not been deployed in service to our country.

I urge you to honor our men and women who serve their country both in military uniform and as civil servants by joining your colleague as a cosponsor of H.R. 217. Please contact me at the address listed below and let me know if you will cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

As a federal employee and a resident of your district, I want to ask for your support for an important piece of legislation that was recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 577, a bi-partisan bill supported by many of your colleagues in the 108th Congress, seeks to increase the federal government's share of health benefit premiums for its employees from the current average of 72% to the most common industry average of 80%.

Federal employees are paying a constantly increasing share of their paycheck for health care premiums for their families, often at the same time their coverage has declined. Unlike the private sector, or even state and local government employees, whose employers pay a greater share of the premium cost, the federal government's share continues to remain at 72%. For 2003, health insurance premiums increased an average of 11.2%, and over the last five years, FEHBP premiums have risen almost 50%.

There are many federal employees who have left the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan, (FEHBP), and in some cases the federal government, because they could not afford the health care premiums for their families. The importance of ensuring that the federal government continues to employ the best and brightest that our country has to offer cannot be underestimated in these difficult times. One way of doing that is to provide more affordable health care premiums to federal employees.

I urge you to become a cosponsor of H.R. 577. Please contact me at the address listed below and let me know if you will cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

As a federal employee and a resident of your district, I want to ask for your support for an important piece of legislation that was recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Representative Howard McKeon (R-CA) and more than of your colleagues from both parties have introduced legislation, H.R. 594, to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision.

It is important that every Member of Congress know the impact that the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision have on their constituents who have worked for the federal government.

Men and women who have worked and earned Social Security benefits in jobs outside of the federal government and also are eligible for a pension from the federal government, find that their Social Security benefits can be radically reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The same devastating financial situation, under the Government Pension Offset (GPO), holds true for those individuals who are eligible to receive spousal Social Security benefits.

Federal employees and retirees impacted by the WEP, paid into Social Security prior to their government service. Upon retirement, these federal retirees find their Social Security benefits reduced if they are also eligible for a federal pension based on non-Social Security covered employment. Federal employees who receive a monthly pension from their government service and are also eligible to receive spousal Social Security benefits, find their Social Security benefits reduced by as much as 2/3 of their pension amount as a result of the GPO.

Many of your federal retiree constituents face undue financial hardships because of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. These provisions are unfair and need to be fixed. Your co-sponsorship and support of H.R. 594, would correct this unreasonable situation.

I urge you to join your colleagues by signing on as a cosponsor of H.R. 594. Please contact me at the address listed below to let me know if you will cosponsor H.R. 594.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

As a federal employee and a resident of your district, I want to ask for your support for an important piece of legislation that was recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 217, introduced by Representative Wexler (D-FL) and cosponsored by your colleagues from both parties, addresses the economic hardships faced by federal employees who are called-up for Reserve Military Duty or National Guard Service.

There are many federal employees who serve their country both in the military reserve or the National Guard and as civil servants. Federal employees, at a moment's notice, leave their families and jobs to defend our nation both on our borders and overseas. However, unlike many companies in the private sector that honor their commitment to our men and women in uniform by providing full salaries to individuals who are deployed, the federal government does not guarantee that employees will receive no less in pay and benefits than if they had not been deployed.

H.R. 217 would address this unfair situation by ensuring that any federal employee who is called-up for Reserve Military Duty or National Guard service would continue to receive no less in pay and benefits than if they had not been deployed in service to our country.

I urge you to honor our men and women who serve their country both in military uniform and as civil servants by joining your colleague as a cosponsor of H.R. 217. Please contact me at the address listed below and let me know if you will cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

As a federal employee and a resident of your state, I want to ask for your support for an important piece of legislation that was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and your colleagues from both parties have introduced legislation, S. 349, to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

It is important that every Member of the Senate know the impact that the GPO and WEP have on their constituents who have worked for the federal government. Federal employees and retirees impacted by the WEP paid into Social Security prior to their government service. Upon retirement, these federal retirees find their Social Security benefits reduced if they are also eligible for a federal pension based on non-Social Security covered employment. Federal employees who receive a monthly pension from their government service and are also eligible to receive spousal Social Security benefits, find their Social Security benefits reduced by as much as 2/3 of their pension amount as a result of the GPO.

Many of your federal retiree constituents face undue financial hardships because of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. These provisions are unfair and need to be fixed. Your co-sponsorship and support of S. 349, would correct this unreasonable situation.

I urge you to join your colleagues by signing on as a cosponsor of S. 349. Please contact me at the address listed below to let me know if you will cosponsor S. 349.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

As a federal employee and a resident of your state, I want to ask for your support for an important piece of legislation that was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate.

S. 363, bi-partisan legislation introduced by Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) would reform the Government Pension Offset (GPO). It is important that every Member of the Senate know the impact that the GPO has on their constituents who have worked for the federal government.

Under the GPO, men and women who should receive Social Security benefits as the spouse of a Social Security recipient, receive only a fraction of that benefit because they also worked for the federal government.

Perhaps this example will clarify why the Government Pension Offset needs to be corrected: As a federal retiree, if I receive a monthly pension of \$600 based on my service with the government and contributions to my retirement, and am also eligible for spousal Social Security benefits, I am denied most of the Social Security I am eligible for because of my work for the federal government. Currently, under the GPO, I would continue to receive my \$600 monthly pension check, but my Social Security benefits would be reduced by 2/3. This provision is particularly harsh on women who have stayed home during portions of their careers to raise their families and on those who are widowed. In some cases, federal employees find that their Social Security benefit is completely eliminated.

Many of your federal retiree constituents face severe economic hardships because of the Government Pension Offset. As your constituent, I believe that the GPO is unfair and needs to be reformed. Your co-sponsorship and support of S. 363 would correct this unreasonable situation.

I urge you to join your colleagues by signing on as a cosponsor of S. 363. Please contact me at the address listed below to let me know if you will cosponsor S. 363.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

As a federal employee and a resident of your state, I want to ask for your support for an important piece of legislation that was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate.

S.Con.Res.1 expresses the sense of Congress that the historic pay parity that has existed between civilian and military pay raises should continue in 2004. As you may know, although the President has recommended average 4.1% pay raises for the active duty military in 2004, he has only suggested a 2% pay raise for civilian federal employees.

Since it was signed into law by President G.W. Bush in 1991, the Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act (FEPCA) provided a remedy to close the pay gap between the public and the private sector. However, in the 12 years since it became law, FEPCA has never been fully implemented and federal employees continue to see the pay gap between the two sectors widen.

In these difficult times, it is essential that the men and women who protect and serve our country, in both the military and the civilian federal service, are provided with the resources that they need both to do their jobs and to provide for their families.

Federal employees are proud of the work that they do to protect and to serve the American public. I urge you to support both the civilian and the military men and women who serve our country every hour of the day, every day of the year, by providing adequate and appropriate pay raises for 2004, and by supporting S.Con. Res.1.

Thank you for your consideration of this important Congressional Resolution. Please let me know if you will cosponsor S.Con.Res.1.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

As your constituent, I ask that you please take action to block the progress of H.R. 1169, or any other effort to "contract out" tax collection work currently performed by federal employees. "Contracting out" tax collection would inevitably lead to reduced taxpayer privacy and overly aggressive collection tactics, without any corresponding increase in collection efficiency. H.R. 1169, introduced by Rep. Amo Houghton at the request of the Bush Administration, ignores the needs of taxpayers and federal employees alike, and should be stopped.

As you know, H.R. 1169 would allow for private contractors to perform duties that have long been classified as "inherently governmental." The collection of overdue taxes by private firms would necessitate giving those firms access to highly sensitive, personal information about individual taxpayers. While the government is liable if federal employees mishandle private information, it is not responsible for what private contractors do with information they are given. This lack of strict standards will undoubtedly result in a shortage of accountability on the part of private contractors.

Further, under the proposed legislation, contractors would be remunerated for their tax collection duties with up to 25% of the revenue they collect. Tying compensation directly to the amount collected is a sure way to encourage aggressive and abusive collection techniques. Federal employees who collect taxes are paid without regard to the amount of revenue collected, and are therefore able to provide a level of service to the taxpayer that cannot be provided by a private contractor.

The prospect of tax collection done by private contractors should frighten taxpayers, federal employees, and members of Congress. The potential negative effects of profit-driven collection of tax revenues far outweigh any unlikely gains in efficiency. Please work with my union, the National Treasury Employees Union, to see that tax collection continues to be performed, with security and accountability, by federal employees. Oppose H.R. 1169 and urge your colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,

The Honorable
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

As a federal employee and a resident of your state, I want to ask for your support for an important piece of legislation that was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate.

S. 319, introduced in the 108th Congress, seeks to increase the federal government's share of health benefits premiums for its employees from the current average of 72% to the most common industry average of 80%.

Federal employees are paying a constantly increasing share of their paycheck for health care premiums for their families, often at the same time their coverage has declined. Unlike the private sector, or even state and local government employees, whose employers pay a greater share of the premium cost, the federal government's share continues to remain at 72%. For 2003, health insurance premiums increased an average of 11.2%, and over the last five years, FEHBP premiums have risen almost 50%.

There are many federal employees who have left the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan, (FEHBP), and in some cases the federal government, because they could not afford the health care premiums for their families. The importance of ensuring that the federal government continues to employ the best and brightest that our country has to offer cannot be underestimated in these difficult times. One way of doing that is to provide more affordable health care premiums to federal employees.

I urge you to become a cosponsor of S. 319. Please contact me at the address listed below and let me know if you will cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,