



Eugene Hudson, Jr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

J. David Cox, Sr.
National President

Augusta Y. Thomas
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

January 6, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents almost 700,000 federal and District of Columbia employees, in more than 70 agencies across the nation, I urge you to oppose the, “Promote Accountability and Government Efficiency (PAGE) Act,” a bill that will be introduced by Representative Todd Rokita, (R-IN). The PAGE Act completely undermines our nation’s civil service system by making all new federal employees “at will,” taking away federal employees’ due process rights, silencing the voices of federal employees by eliminating their right to have union representatives in the workplace, and giving the government the authority to take away their earned pensions.

The PAGE Act will *reduce* accountability and government efficiency by allowing supervisors to arbitrarily fire and discipline employees who speak up against mismanagement and wasteful spending. The bill actually states that a federal employee can be fired for no cause. The bill will also make it harder for the federal government to attract and retain the top quality professionals the American people expect. More specifically this bill will:

- Completely change the federal pay system and prohibit all pay adjustments, including annual adjustments, unless the employee is awarded at least a 4 on a 5-point rating system, to be developed by OPM.
- Eliminate official time, so that employees can no longer have union representation at work.
- Make all new federal workers “at will,” meaning they can be fired for any reason or no reason without recourse.
- Allow immediate suspension for allegations related to “performance” without any opportunity to address concerns regarding these allegations.

The PAGE Act would politicize the civil service, taking us back to the 19th century before enactment of the Pendleton Act in 1883. Prior to the Pendleton Act, all Executive Branch employees were “at will,” and appointed on the basis of patronage— “to the victor went the spoils.” This resulted in a partisan civil service, which changed when a new Presidential administration took office and jeopardized the mission readiness of federal agencies. The services that federal employees provide are too important to the American public to allow this to happen again.

Every day, federal workers provide vital services to communities in your Congressional District and the PAGE Act will only make it more difficult for federal employees to patrol our borders, provide our veterans with the care they have earned, ensure that seniors and disabled individuals receive their essential support, keep our communities safe from dangerous criminals, keep travelers safe, and keep our military supplied and ready.

Please Oppose the PAGE Act! For questions please contact, Alethea Predeoux at alethea.predeoux@afge.org.

Sincerely,



Alethea Predeoux
Legislative Representative