



# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

**Eric Bunn Sr.**  
*National Secretary-Treasurer*

**Dr. Everett B. Kelley**  
*National President*

**Jeremy A. Lannan**  
*NVP for Women & Fair Practices*

September 14, 2022

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents over 700,000 employees at 70 different agencies throughout the government, we write to express our positions on bills scheduled for House floor consideration.

We support H.R. 302, the “Preventing a Patronage System Act of 2021,” and urge that it be passed on the House floor without delay. This bill prohibits executive agency positions in the competitive service from being placed into the excepted service unless such positions are placed in Schedules A through E as they were in effect on September 30, 2020. The bill also prohibits positions in the excepted service from being placed in any schedule other than the existing schedules.

The law is necessitated by an executive order (EO) issued during the last administration to create a new civil service Schedule F which would have made a wide range of career civil service positions at will. Current personnel rules, which ensure that the government’s personnel are hired based on merit rather than political or other considerations, must be maintained. AFGE strongly opposes any attempt to waive civil service appointment and removal laws and to create any new excepted service schedules. We strongly oppose the amendment offered by Representative Hice (R-GA), which would effectively codify the existence of Schedule F and allow future presidents to transfer career civil servants into Schedule F, where they could face summary removal.

AFGE further supports H.R. 2988, the “Whistleblower Protection Improvement Act of 2021,” which includes a self-executing Manager’s Amendment offered by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, striking an errant provision that would have extended whistleblower protections to politically appointed members of the Senior Executive Service. AFGE supports expanded rights and protections for federal whistleblowers and supports the legislation.

Finally, AFGE supports S. 2293, the “Civilian Reservist Emergency Workforce (CREW) Act of 2021,” a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide certain employment rights to Federal Emergency Management Agency reservists — on-call FEMA staff who first respond to major disasters and emergencies — employment protections and benefits under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

While AFGE does not represent FEMA reservists we strongly support all employees having access to employee rights in the workplace to ensure they can perform the mission of the agency with dignity and respect. Employee rights for reservists will only help support them in their duties to serve and protect the American public during national disasters.



Should you have any questions regarding AFGE's views on these bills, please contact me at [Daniel.Horowitz@afge.org](mailto:Daniel.Horowitz@afge.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel M. Horowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Daniel Horowitz  
Deputy Director of Legislation