



Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Dr. Kendrick B. Roberson
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

June 29, 2026

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the members of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) which represents over 820,000 federal and D.C. government employees including at AFGE Local 1534, which represents current and former employees of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), we urge Congress to strengthen oversight, restore accountability, protect federal employee rights, and address the ongoing financial hardships resulting from the USAID reduction-in-force (RIF) that was carried out in February 2025.

Nearly 16 months later, thousands of dedicated public servants continue to face the consequences of workforce reductions that disrupted careers, weakened institutional capacity, and diminished America's ability to advance its foreign policy and development objectives. For many former employees, the most immediate consequence has been delayed access to earned retirement benefits, retirement savings, and other separation-related payments. A recent AFGE Local 1534 survey found that a significant share of former USAID employees are still waiting for retirement funds, annuity payments, or other earned benefits, creating a serious financial hardship for affected employees and their families.

Many employees were forced into retirement with little warning and have spent months navigating delays in retirement processing and benefits administration. Some have depleted savings, incurred debt, or struggled to meet basic expenses while awaiting benefits they earned through years of federal service. No public servant should face financial insecurity because of administrative failures associated with a workforce reduction.

The impact extends beyond affected employees. The loss of experienced professionals and technical expertise has weakened the government's ability to deliver foreign assistance programs, respond to humanitarian crises, support democratic governance, and advance U.S. national security interests.

We respectfully urge Congress to:

- Conduct oversight hearings into the planning, implementation, and consequences of the USAID workforce reductions, including their impact on employees, retirees, foreign assistance programs, and compliance with federal personnel laws.
- Investigate delays in retirement processing, annuity payments, retirement account access, and other benefits administration issues affecting former USAID employees, and ensure all earned funds are promptly delivered.
- Require greater transparency, accountability, and congressional consultation before large-scale workforce restructuring actions are undertaken within foreign affairs agencies.



- Restore the workforce capacity, expertise, and institutional knowledge necessary to carry out America's development and foreign assistance mission.
- Protect and strengthen collective bargaining rights and labor-management partnerships across the federal government.

AFGE Local 1534 continues to hear from former USAID employees concerned about delayed retirement benefits, missing funds, and the broader impact of these actions on America's foreign assistance capabilities. These concerns warrant immediate congressional attention.

The public servants who dedicated their careers to advancing U.S. interests overseas deserve accountability, transparency, and timely access to the benefits they earned. We respectfully request that Congress exercise its oversight responsibilities and pursue reforms that strengthen both the federal workforce and the institutions that serve the American people.

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional information regarding the impacts of these workforce actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Everett B. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "y" at the end.

Everett B. Kelley
National President
American Federation of Government Employees,
AFL-CIO