American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

Mark Dimondstein, President
Judy Beard, Legislative & Political Director

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

115th Congress

Say "NO!" to the PAGE ACT

Congressman Todd Rokita (R-IN) has reintroduced the PAGE Act, anti-worker legislation that would strip union representation and protections from new postal and federal employees. Rokita's PAGE Act (H.R. 3257) would make all newly hired postal and federal employees into "at-will" employees, able to be fired at management's will.

- By eliminating essential union representation, the PAGE act would leave new employees to fend for themselves against capricious management actions or wrongful terminations.
- In fact, Congressman Rokita advertises wrongful terminations as a key feature of the PAGE Act, telling other lawmakers that new postal or federal employees "may be removed/suspended without notice or right to appeal for good cause, bad cause, or no cause at all."
- Further, the bill if enacted would severely restrict official union time and, through performance reviews, grant managers full control over future pay raises.

Such broad assaults on the livelihoods of dedicated civil servants are unacceptable. In this uncertain time for employees doing the people's work, we must remain vigilant to protect our members' interests. The APWU stands firm with our sister federal and postal employee unions in opposition of this odious legislation.

APWU Opposes Attacks on Official Time

For the workplace protection of federal employees, there are provisions in collective bargaining agreements and federal law (such as barring discrimination, sexual harassment, and whistle-blower retaliation). Without enforcement, however, those are just words on paper. When their rights are violated in the workplace, federal employees rely on union representatives to advocate in their interest. Through the use of official time, union representatives and stewards fulfill this essential work.

- Per federal law, official time use is limited to an amount agreed to by both the employing agency and labor union.
- Official time costs just 0.1% of all of the salaries and benefits paid to federal employees a year.
- For more than 40 years, official time has been an important tool for management and workers to address workplace concerns.
- Despite claims by anti-worker politicians, employees on official time do not conduct union business – use of official time is limited to government business.

The assault on official time takes many forms. In 2016, a bipartisan coalition of Republicans and Democrats resisted attempts to strip official time from Veterans Affairs employees. The latest attack on official time, H.R. 1364 introduced by Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA), was reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10th. While this specific bill does not address the Postal Service, it is one of many legislative attempts to undermine federal and postal collective bargaining rights.

- H.R. 1364 would devastate union stewards' retirement security by eliminating accrual of pension credits while on official time advocating for their co-workers.
- This needless and reckless bill would both undermine workplace protections and negatively impact the performance of our essential federal agencies.

Contact the APWU Legislative and Political Department at (202) 842-4211 for more information

A complete list of APWU Legislative Priorities is available at apwu.org