



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2018

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing about the recent report that the Administration intends to eliminate the pay raises for civilian federal employees in 2019. I am writing to ask that this action be reconsidered and rescinded.

In my district in Virginia, I represent many dedicated federal employees. The CIA is in my home precinct. Professionals from every agency of government live in our area.

While many think of the federal workforce exclusively in this area, only about 1 in 6 of the almost 2 million civilian full-time federal employees live in the Washington, D.C. metro area. The Virginia/Maryland/District of Columbia area does have the highest number of federal workers, however, government employees make up large shares of the workforce in many other areas, often near military bases.

Federal civilians are 15 percent of the workforce in the small metropolitan area near Robins Air Force Base south of Macon, Georgia and federal civilian workers are also 13 percent of the workforce in the Bremerton-Silverdale metropolitan area near Seattle. Thousands of federal employees live in Texas, Colorado, Ohio, and Florida and more.

Our public servants have been getting shortchanged for years; including three years of pay freezes under the Obama Administration. To do the important work of protecting our country and providing for a stronger economy, we need well paid professionals who know we support their important missions. We recently provided our military with the largest pay increase in nearly a decade, and I appreciate your strong support for this commitment to our military.

Republicans recently made a strong statement in the House of Representatives supporting ICE and the work our dedicated homeland security officials do. Dedicated work is also done by our civilian employees at the Defense Department, the CIA, the FBI, DEA and other law enforcement agencies.

The National Institute of Health employees dedicated federal employees who day in and day out search for cures and treatments that save lives and save us from the huge costs of diseases such as Alzheimer's, Cancer, Diabetes and more. Thousands of medical professionals serve our veterans every day. Professionals at the Treasury Department track down terrorist financing and complex criminal financial networks. Cybersecurity experts are needed throughout our government. All of this expertise requires well paid professionals whose hard work is fairly compensated.

We simply cannot balance the budget on the backs of our federal employees. With our strong, booming economy, I know we can work to find ways to support and fairly pay our federal employees, while growing the private sector economy, and reducing our deficits.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Comstock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Barbara Comstock