

United DoD Workers Coalition

Collectively representing the interests of the Nation's defense since 2001

May 23, 2018

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

As labor organizations representing hundreds of thousands of federal employees, we are writing regarding amendments to the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Specifically, we urge you to **VOTE NO** on:

- Ross Amendment – federal official time (#32), and
- Steve King Amendment - Davis-Bacon enforcement defund (#22)

The Ross amendment, which requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to submit a report to Congress on official time activities by federal employees, could have a chilling effect and deprive federal employees of pension credit for official time spent on labor-management relations and representing employees. Official time is essential to ensure that federal employees have a voice at the worksite — those who belong to unions as well as those who do not.

Employee representatives use official time to address issues such as working conditions and workplace safety; protect employees from discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, and other factors unrelated to job performance; and explore training and educational opportunities. The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 prohibits the use of official time for union-specific business such as soliciting members, electing officers, internal meetings, and partisan political activities.

The King amendment would undermine the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires workers to be paid locally prevailing wages on projects funded by the federal government. Prevailing wage calculations are based on typical wages and benefits for workers in a community — those who are union members as well as those who are not. This approach helps ensure that workers can provide food, clothing, shelter, and other necessities for their families, especially children who cannot fend for themselves. In addition to workers and taxpayers, entire communities benefit from projects covered by the Davis-Bacon Act.

We strongly urge you to **VOTE NO** on both the Ross and King amendments because of the adverse impact they would have on children, working families, and their communities.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO (AFT)
Federal Education Association/National Education Association (FEA/NEA)

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots (MM&P)
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA)
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO (MTD)
National Association of Government Employees, SEIU (NAGE)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)
Overseas Federation of Teachers, AFT, AFL-CIO
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)
Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)
Seafarers International Union/NMU (SIU)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART)
SPORT Air Traffic Controllers Organization (SATCO)
United Power Trades Organization (UPTO)