



Blacks In Government ®

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***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

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National Blacks In Government Opposes Retirement Cuts for Federal Employees

National Blacks In Government (BIG) adamantly opposes the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director Dr. Jeff Pon's request that Congress pass legislation to reduce benefits under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). The four changes to the employee benefits systems include: elimination of FERS annuity supplements; use of high-five rather than high-three pay years to calculate annuity; increase in employee retirement contribution; and reduction or elimination of retirement cost-of-living adjustments. All of these changes would result in a serious shortfall in retirement income security and lowering of the standard of living.

National President, Dr. Doris Sartor, stated that "federal employees are hardworking professionals who have dedicated their lives to providing services that help the American people and deserve to retain their benefits." During this week of Public Service recognition it is disheartening to see OPM requesting cuts to earned federal retirement benefits. How can we attract new talent into the federal workforce when we are attacking one of the most reliable benefits offered by government service?

Blacks In Government will be requesting that Congress not consider OPM's legislative proposals to cut federal retirement benefits for federal employees. We will ask our members, strategic alliances and partners to contact their legislators and voice their opposition to gutting the retirement benefits for hard working public sector employees. BIG will closely monitor this congressional proposal through its National Legislative Committee.

Blacks In Government is a national response to the need for African Americans in public service to organize around issues of mutual concern and use their collective strength to confront workplace and community issues. BIG seeks to represent over two million Federal, State, County and Municipal workers across America. BIG's goals are to promote EQUITY in all aspects of American life, EXCELLENCE in public service, and OPPORTUNITY for all Americans.

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