

March 7, 2012

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Chapter Presidents and Legislative Coordinators

RE: 2012 Legislative Conference Review

**SUMMARY: The 2012 Legislative Conference took place in Washington, DC, February 28 – March 1. Three hundred and fifty NTEU members participated in the annual conference and visited hundreds of congressional offices on Capitol Hill.**

From February 28 – March 1, 350 NTEU members took part in the annual NTEU Legislative Conference. As in previous years, participants attended workshops, heard speeches from key policymakers, met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill, and joined other NTEU members from the Washington area to rally in support of the federal workforce.

The conference began on Tuesday morning with a riveting opening speech given by **Senator Sherrod Brown** (D-OH). Senator Brown offered words of encouragement and support for federal employees and deplored the attacks the federal workforce has recently faced. He spoke of the important work performed by the federal workforce and the need to maintain it in order to deliver services to the public. NTEU members then traveled to Capitol Hill for scheduled meetings with their representatives and senators. The attendees ended their day with a moving candlelight vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial to honor those CBP employees who have lost their lives in the line of duty. I was deeply honored that **Deputy Secretary Jane Holl Lute**, Department of Homeland Security, and **Kevin McAleenan, Acting Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Field Operations** at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, joined us for the Vigil of Lights.

On Wednesday, the inclement weather moved our rally indoors to the Capitol Visitors Center Auditorium. NTEU members rallied while hearing from senators and representatives, who spoke with great support and respect for federal employees. They also pledged to fight proposals that could negatively impact federal employees. NTEU's annual Congressional Reception took place on Wednesday evening. During this year's reception NTEU honored **Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii**, who is retiring at the end of this year, for his many years of service and support for federal employees. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont also attended and made remarks in support of federal employees and retirees. The conference concluded on Thursday with more Congressional meetings and an energizing address by Former Governor Tim Kaine (VA). Governor Kaine touched on the importance of participating in the legislative process and emphasized the significance of the federal workforce's contributions to the American people.

NTEU's Legislative Conference efforts focused on a number of priority issues recommended by members of our Legislative Advisory Committee that met in Washington, D.C., in January. I have included the fact sheets our members used in their visits to Capitol Hill. They can also be found on the NTEU web site. I hope you find them useful and informative, and I encourage you to use them in your own visits with your members of Congress, particularly when they are in their local districts. Be on the lookout for memos informing you of upcoming Congressional recesses so you can continue carrying the NTEU message to members of Congress while they are at home.

Thank you to all who attended the 2012 Legislative Conference and to all who are active in our legislative grassroots efforts. For more information on the conference as well as pictures, please visit [www.nteu.org](http://www.nteu.org). If you need additional information on grassroots issues, please contact Stacy Casimiro, NTEU's Director of Legislative Grassroots.

Colleen M. Kelley  
National President

Attachments