

June 24, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Chapter Presidents and Legislative Coordinators

RE: Senate Hearing on Recommendations by the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

**SUMMARY: NTEU submitted testimony to the Senate Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee, which held a hearing to review the recommendations from the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to reform federal hiring and benefits.**

Yesterday, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management held a hearing to review the recommendations from the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. The Commission was established by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 to review the military selective service process and consider methods to increase participation in military, national, and public service in order to address national security and other public service needs of the nation. The Commission released their report and recommendations in March, which includes proposals to reform federal hiring, make changes to veterans' preference, expand non-competitive hiring, address workforce skills gaps, make changes to federal benefits that could impact your retirement, and develop a new personnel system.

During the hearing, Subcommittee Chairman James Lankford (R-OK) asked about the proposed changes to veterans' preference and employee benefits. He also discussed concerns with the time it takes to hire federal employees and the application process. Subcommittee Ranking Member Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) asked about recommendations to improve agency culture in light of recent pay freezes, shutdowns, and attacks on civil servants. She also inquired about the impact to merit based hiring in light of recommendations to increase noncompetitive hiring across government.

Although the Commission's report and recommendations are designed to increase public service, NTEU is concerned about several proposals that could adversely impact employee retirement and other benefits and make it easier to violate merit system principles in hiring. NTEU submitted the attached statement to the Subcommittee for the hearing record expressing these concerns. Chairman Lankford indicated at the conclusion of the hearing that he is considering sending a letter to the Administration regarding some of these recommendations and may introduce legislation related to others. We will keep you posted as Congress continues to consider these proposals.

Anthony M. Reardon  
National President

Attachment