



May 29, 2020

The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chair  
The Honorable Gary Peters, Ranking Member  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Peters:

As National President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), representing 150,000 federal employees across 33 agencies, I am writing to urge the Committee to closely monitor agencies' plans for bringing employees back to their worksites, their implementation of guidance, and how they are keeping employees safe.

As federal agencies begin to call employees back to their buildings and offices, many employees have expressed a significant amount of anxiety and fear about their ability to return to work safely. Their fears are understandable, as more than 1.7 million Americans have been infected with COVID-19 and more than 100,000 U.S. residents have already died from this virus.

As agencies prepare for and begin to bring employees back to their worksites, I urge the Committee to ensure that agencies are taking every precaution to protect employees in this current environment, including:

- Conducting COVID-19 testing and contact tracing for all employees to reduce spread;
- Screening employees, including taking temperatures;
- Cleaning and disinfecting all workspaces and common areas;
- Ensuring safe physical distancing;
- Providing ample supplies of hand-sanitizer, wipes, and gloves;
- Providing and requiring the wearing of masks/cloth face coverings in the workplace;
- Installing plexiglass barriers where appropriate;
- Maximizing telework and other flexibilities, particularly for employees with children whose schools or child-care facilities are closed and those who rely on public transportation where social distancing may not be possible to get to work; and
- Authorizing telework or weather and safety leave for "high risk" employees.

Federal employees already face many challenges in the course of their work and concerns about their health and safety while returning to shared office spaces should not be one of them. I

know you share that interest. We deeply appreciate your efforts to support and protect federal employees throughout this crisis and encourage you to continue to provide strong oversight to help ensure the safety of federal employees in this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Anthony M. Reardon  
National President