



the voice of career federal executives since 1980

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March 16, 2015

The Honorable Tom Rice
223 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rice:

The Senior Executives Association (SEA) represents the interests of career federal executives in the Senior Executive Service (SES), and those in Senior Level (SL), Scientific and Professional (ST), and equivalent positions. On behalf of the Association, whose entire membership would be negatively affected by your PAID for Progress Act (H.R. 1137), I write to share significant concerns with this bill and your explanation justifying it. I also write to inform you about the consequences of this legislation for the government workforce writ-large, should it be approved.

The Great Recession has negatively impacted nearly all Americans. Federal employees, too, fall in that category, and have faced the challenges of rising grocery, energy, and household expenses. Adding to that challenge, federal workers have seen their take-home pay and benefits reduced by \$159 billion over the past five years.

Fortunately, America is pulling out of the recession and is seeing gains in employment, a drop in unemployment, and some wage growth. While take-home pay for everyday Americans may not be rising on a level needed to further speed our nation's economic recovery, yours is truly an extraordinary assertion that "regulators" and "federal bureaucrats" are directly responsible for the take-home pay of American citizens.

The vast majority of the federal employees making over \$100,000 have no direct tie to a regulatory process that would affect median household income. Moreover, it is unclear to which specific regulations you are referring. I urge you to identify specific regulations that you believe are negatively affecting the American public and household income, and to raise concerns to the relevant federal agencies or to address those specific regulations legislatively.

In the meantime, denigrating the federal workforce and calling for an 8.7 percent reduction in salary for employees making over \$100,000 would make it impossible for the government to attract and retain the doctors and nurses serving our wounded warriors at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the scientists exploring cures at the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the lawyers at the Justice Department prosecuting drug traffickers and cyber criminals, and the engineers at the Defense Department developing weapons and systems for warfighters, to name a few.

In South Carolina, your legislation would negatively impact the men and women serving at Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, Joint Base Charleston, Parris Island, Naval Hospital Beaufort, the Savannah River National Laboratory, the USDA's Vegetable Laboratory and Cotton Quality Research Station at Clemson University, among others.

I trust you do not intend to deprive our government of the above mentioned critical employees at its installations in South Carolina. If you or your staff would like to discuss this legislation in further detail, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol A. Bonosaro".

CAROL A. BONOSARO
President