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77 K Street N.E., Suite 2600 • Washington, D.C. 20002 • (202) 927-7000 • Fax (202) 927-5192 • www.seniorexecs.org

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Dear Representative:

Yesterday you were asked to consider several bills under suspension that would have had significant unintended consequences for the federal workforce. Three of these bills were subsequently pulled from consideration. They are now being repackaged into one bill for consideration today as H.R. 2879.

The Senior Executives Association (SEA) sent a letter to you earlier this week asking you to oppose two of the measures - H.R. 2579 and H.R. 1541. We continue to urge your opposition now.

It has come to our attention that H.R. 2579 is being billed as a measure that passed overwhelmingly last year. While it is true that a similar bill did pass, H.R. 2579 has been significantly altered from what you voted on before.

The bill now allows an agency head - a political appointee - to fire Senior Executives with no due process and no oversight. This is a terrible precedent that threatens to politicize the career senior leadership of the government. Moreover, it assumes a Senior Executive is guilty until proven otherwise.

In the federal employment context, due process means requiring the government to provide adequate notice of the proposed termination, with reasons provided for the action, and allowing the employee the opportunity to respond before the action is taken. The agency head would have to have strong reasons for alleged wrongdoing by the Senior Executive. Due process does not mean only giving a Senior Executive the right to a lengthy and potentially expensive appeal after they've been fired. SEA opposes this type of new system where you shoot first and ask questions later.

H.R. 2579 is not the same bill that passed last year. It contains serious, significant changes that deserve greater consideration than is being given.

Please vote NO on H.R. 2579/H.R. 2879.

Sincerely,

CAROL A. BONOSARO
President

WILLIAM L. BRANSFORD
General Counsel