

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 19, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

I write to express my continued outrage over your executive orders aimed at ending collective bargaining rights for federal employees. Despite the ongoing litigation related to the initial executive order and the administration's gross misinterpretation of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, the new order entitled Further Exclusions from the Federal Labor-management Relations Program further undermines the rights of federal workers across the country and their ability to serve the American people. This executive order, which directs additional agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to cancel their collective bargaining agreements, is another escalation of your administration's relentless attacks on patriotic and dedicated federal workers.

The Civil Service Reform Act allows the suspension of collective bargaining in very limited national security circumstances. Yet, your order extends far beyond legitimate national security concerns and threatens the rights of workers who serve in a wide range of critical public services, including providing reliable forecasting of severe weather, managing the health of our nation's fisheries, protecting and promoting American innovation, studying the earth and universe, and conducting cutting-edge research to advance technology. These services are important to American communities and advance our economy and innovation. Instead of safeguarding them, this action will only jeopardize them.

Moreover, the White House's own justification that these actions will ensure a more "responsive and accountable" civil service ignores the vital checks and balances that collective bargaining provides. Unions give federal employees the ability to stand up for their rights without fear of retaliation, which ensures that government services are delivered fairly and efficiently.

This expansion of the executive order simply advances your administration's broader campaign to misuse executive power and dismantle the merit-based civil service. It is your administration's latest attempt to strip workers of their rights, politicize the federal workforce, and replace dedicated career public servants with politically motivated appointees.

I urge you to immediately rescind this illegal executive order. Every day that it remains in place, federal workers are left vulnerable to political retribution, undermining their ability to do their jobs effectively on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Van Hollen", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies