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January 6, 2017

Dear Representative,

As President of the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, which is comprised of workers represented by 17 International and National unions, I am writing you in regards to a letter being circulated in the House from Rep. Todd Rokita (R- IN, 4) requesting co-sponsors for his legislation titled "Promote Accountability and Government Efficiency" (PAGE). The Metal Trades Department respectfully asks that you not cosponsor the bill and instead oppose it as it doesn't serve the best interests of America's hard working taxpayers or civil servants.

The PAGE Act is nothing less than a veiled attempt to undermine civil service protections provided federal employees that helps enable them to perform their duties unfettered by partisan politics and ideology. I have particular concerns with provisions within the Act that would make Agency management less accountable, allow supervisors to financially cripple individual employees, severely curtail or eliminate official time for union representatives and eliminate civil service protections for newly hired workers by designating them as "at will" employees. Furthermore the Act undermines the right to due process, thereby limiting workers ability to appeal adverse disciplinary actions and creating an even more hostile environment than already exists towards whistleblowers and reformers who choose to speak out against wrong doing and injustice.

As representatives of workers employed by the federal government we are legally required to provide full representation to all members of a bargaining unit, whether or not the worker elects to pay voluntary union dues. We are prevented by law from collecting any fees from non-dues payers for the representational services that they seek from the union. We are prohibited by current law from using either official time for union business or for political activities. The contention by the PAGE Acts author and supporters that taxpayer money is currently used for union business is misleading and wrong.

In short, the PAGE Act would violate federal employee's core rights to due-process and ultimately serve to corrupt our independent and professional civil-servant workforce. The end result shall be greater costs to taxpayers, an open invite for bureaucrats to harass workers and the creation of an uncivil work environment of harassment that the unions of the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO respectfully request that you oppose.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any further questions please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

James Hart
President

cc: MTD Executive Council
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