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March 8, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Metal Trades Department of the AFL-CIO and its affiliated International Unions, I strongly urge you to **Vote No** on the *Official Time Reform Act of 2017* (H.R. 1364) and H.R. 1293 during the bills' markups on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

H.R. 1364 is an unnecessary attack on federal employees who perform honorable work on behalf of Labor-Management relations for the United States Government. Furthermore, the bill seeks to take away service credit for any worker who has spent time conducting official representational duties thereby effectually damaging their federal employee retirement benefits.

We believe you should oppose H.R. 1293 which would create unnecessary and tedious reporting requirements for a system which inherently saves the taxpayer time and money for the federal government through the use of official time which gives federal employees a voice in the work place whether they belong to a union or not and ensures maximum conditions and educational opportunities.

Official time also is used to protect employees from discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, sexual orientation and other factors unrelated to their job performance. Official time resolves workplace conflicts as early as possible, without resorting to expensive and time-consuming administrative or legal fights.

We all know that union representatives are not allowed to use official time to conduct union specific business, such as soliciting members, holding internal union meetings, electing union officers, or engaging in partisan political activities, per the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978.

Official time is a win for agencies, government employees, and most importantly the taxpayers they serve. We urge you to **Vote NO** on the Official Time Reform Act of 2017 (H.R. 1364) and H.R. 1293.

In solidarity,

James Hart, President  
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO