



**Eric Bunn Sr.**  
*National Secretary-Treasurer*

**Dr. Everett B. Kelley**  
*National President*

**Jeremy A. Lannan**  
*NVP for Women & Fair Practices*

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
Chairman  
House Committee on Rules  
H-312 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Rules  
H-312 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McGovern, Ranking Member Cole, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 700,000 federal and District of Columbia government employees in more than 70 federal agencies, I write to share our position on the following late-filed amendments to H.R. 7900, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023” which were posted subsequent to our July 7, 2022 letter.

Please do not make in order Amendment Number 1195 proposed by Rep. DesJarlais (R-TN) that would extend the current sunset for direct hire authority from 2025 to 2030. Direct hire authority only slightly shortens the hiring process by reducing consideration of otherwise qualified candidates. The effects of budgetary uncertainty, arbitrary personnel caps, inadequate staffing in human resources departments, and the length of the security clearance process on hiring actions are not at all mitigated by direct hire. More importantly, reliance on direct hire weakens the quality and diversity of candidates by radically shrinking the talent pool under consideration. The patchwork of direct hire authorities are at best placebos that give the illusion of having regard for improving the hiring process. A better approach to improving hiring would instead focus on increasing the size, quality and diversity of the talent pool through bills such as the bi-partisan H.R. 6967/ S. 3423 “Chance to Compete Act of 2022,” which disappointingly was not included in any of the amendments to the NDAA.

Please do not make in order the various additional amendments weakening the Department of Defense’s ability to enforce compliance with COVID-19 safety measures that affect its workforce and surrounding communities, or that irrationally try to undermine science with biased reporting, such as the Amendment Number 1204 filed late by Rep. Mark Green (R-TN); Amendment Number 1190, filed late by Rep. Issa (R-CA); and, Amendment Number 1189 filed late by Rep. Boebert (R-CO).

Please do not make in order the frivolous and divisive Amendment Number 1168 filed late by Rep. Boebert (R-CO) that would prohibit funding for expanding diversity training.



We urge you to consider AFGE's position on the above late-filed amendments to H.R. 7900, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023" as you decide which amendments to make in order. For questions or more information, please contact John Anderson at [john.anderson@afge.org](mailto:john.anderson@afge.org) or 703-943-9438.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel M. Horowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Daniel Horowitz  
Deputy Director of Legislation

CC: HASC