



March 14, 2019

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cummings:

On behalf of the National Treasury Employees Union, which represents over 150,000 federal employees at 33 federal agencies, I am writing in support of H.R. 1534, the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act, which would provide 12 weeks of paid family leave for federal employees for all instances covered by the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), this family-friendly bill would provide paid leave for the birth, adoption or placement of a child in foster care, or to care for a spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition. Currently, federal workers do not have any guarantee of paid leave for bringing a new child into the family and existing federal employee leave policies may not provide adequate paid leave to care for a critically ill family member. And while the FMLA has played a vital role for workers, allowing them to keep their jobs when they need to be absent for extended periods of time to care for themselves or a loved one, few employees can afford to take weeks of unpaid leave. No employee should be forced to choose between a paycheck and caring for their family.

The Federal Employee Paid Leave Act will also help our federal government recruit and retain dedicated and talented workers. It is a win-win for the government — employees would be allowed time to bond with their new child or take care of a family member with a serious health condition, and agencies would not have to suffer the costs of recruiting and training new employees and would be better able to compete with the private sector for talented individuals.

As a cosponsor of this bill, I know you understand how important it is that Congress act to provide these much-needed benefits to federal employees, and I urge the Committee on Oversight and Reform to favorably report this bill in the near future.

Thank you for all that you do in support of the federal workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President