

## SECURING AGENCY MISSIONS

One of the most critical issues facing the federal workforce is a lack of adequate and stable agency funding. Many agencies remain drastically understaffed due to funding reductions imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011, which has degraded their ability to carry out their missions on behalf of the American public. Agencies also being forced to operate under short-term funding measures. Without additional resources, federal employees are not able to perform the broad range of services the public relies on, including assisting American taxpayers, protecting consumers and investors, and securing our borders.

At the IRS, funding reductions of almost \$1 billion over the past eight years have severely strained its ability to respond to taxpayer inquiries in a timely manner and combat identity theft and other types of refund fraud. The cuts have forced the IRS to reduce the total number of full-time employees by almost 21,000, including many frontline personnel who provide the critical services taxpayers rely on to understand and meet their tax obligations. In order for the IRS to provide taxpayers with the assistance they need, collect revenue that funds the federal government and swiftly and successfully implement the biggest set of changes to the tax code in the past 30 years, it is imperative they be provided with additional funding.

CBP has been chronically understaffed at our nation's ports of entries for years. In addition to 1,200 current vacancies in the CBP Officer workforce at the 328 ports of entry, the most recent results of CBP's Workload Staff Model show a need for an additional 2,500 CBP Officers through FY 2018—a total CBP Officer staffing shortage of 3,700. It is critical that Congress fund and hire additional CBP Officers, as well as additional CBP Agriculture Specialists and trade operations personnel that are needed to meet the hiring goals in their staffing models. NTEU supports S. 2314, which would authorize the hiring of 500 additional CBP Officers and requisite support staff per year until the CBP Officer staffing gap in CBP's Workload Staffing Model is met.

Agency missions would also be harmed by proposals to change governing structures, alter funding sources, and interfere with and politicize their work. The intended independence of banking and consumer protection agencies are threatened by legislation to put them under the appropriations process. Scientists who work for federal agencies such as EPA, DOE and FDA need to be able to perform their scientific research for the public, free from outside interference, and with adequate budgets and staffing.

### **NTEU urges:**

- Providing agencies with sufficient, long-term funding and relief from sequestration for the remainder of FY 2018 and FY 2019, and opposing workforce reduction plans.
- Opposition to measures to abolish or undermine agencies that provide critical services, including H.R. 25 and S. 18 (To abolish IRS), H.R. 861 (To abolish EPA), and H.R. 1031 and S. 370 (To abolish Consumer Financial Protection Bureau).
- Support for S. 2314 to increase CBP Officer staffing to meet the current critical staffing shortage at the ports of entry.
- Oppose H.R. 10 to put FDIC, OCC, NCUA and CFBP under the appropriations process and to close SEC field offices.
- Support for S. 338 and H.R. 1358, the Scientific Integrity Act, to protect federal employees engaged in scientific research and to guarantee federal scientific research integrity for the public.