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The President's Column: A Call to Action



At a time when it feels like everything is under attack all at once, it is easy to be intimidated into inaction.

That is the point of creating chaos. Those who are waging these attacks want you to feel helpless, hopeless and simply give up. That is how they plan to win. NTEU will not let this assault on federal workers go unchecked. We will not back down. I have faith in NTEU members. I know what you are made of. I know that you believe in standing up for what is right. You see these attacks for what they are and understand and see the damage being done to our country. You are not helpless and you know that when we fight back together, we win.

What we are witnessing is NOT OK. It is not OK that this administration is illegally disregarding the law, or firing probationary employees without cause. It is not OK that this administration is ignoring your legally negotiated contracts, disregarding long-standing personnel practices and removing the flexibilities you and your family have counted on for years. These attacks are designed to dismantle the government and dishonor you—the civil servants dedicated to serving the American people. Ask yourself, why would they attack the federal workforce and our union? The answer is simple: They know we represent TRUTH. We are the true patriots of this country who have dedicated our lives to serving the American people. They wouldn't be working so hard to silence us if they didn't understand how important our voices are. Now more than ever we must use our voices to fight back. NTEU is working hard on your behalf to fight each attack they bring. But this fight will take all of us. Absolutely everyone must be engaged to take on these challenges.

Since when has collecting taxes, ensuring the financial wellbeing of millions of Americans, managing our park systems, printing official documents, or guaranteeing the safety and efficacy of prescription drugs been a national security concern? We are front-and-center in the increasingly robust movement to protect the interests of working families and safeguard the government services we all depend upon.

We are using every legal tool available to shut this attack down—we are in it for the long haul. We’ve filed a lawsuit alleging the manipulation of “national security” to undermine the right of federal employees to have a voice on the job. We are filing grievances every time they violate our contracts and the law and we are in the streets, sharing our stories and telling the truth to the American people. This fight is not about efficiency. If they wanted efficiency, they would work with you to identify where cost saving measures could be made that would better serve the public. Instead, they are violating the law, our contracts and abandoning agency missions to destroy the federal workforce and replace them with for-profit contractors who are not held to the same high standards of the federal workforce.

Public sentiment was shifting even before Trump’s executive order attacking collective bargaining rights. A recent poll found 60 percent of Americans believe most federal employees are essential to the functioning of the United States; 55 percent believe staff and funding cuts to federal agencies were doing more harm than good. Our members bravely shared personal stories about their valuable work as well as anxiety about their jobs. The result is that Americans are learning exactly how their lives are impacted when federal agencies are gutted, and they know now that this administration is making government worse, not better. They see the **commitment** of federal workers to the oath they swore to the Constitution—and they are **honoring** that oath by showing deep concern for this administration’s reckless disregard for the services and resources civil servants provide. Judging by the outpouring in the streets and in the halls of Congress these last few weeks, those numbers have only improved, thanks to you.

IT IS UP TO ALL OF US to keep the pressure on and show this administration that we will never give up. This is OUR moment where we need to walk the NTEU talk about solidarity. Please encourage-age your family and friends to join us in this fight, because our success will benefit everyone.

TOGETHER, we will stand up for what is right and fight back. **This is your call to action.** So, when you receive an email from NTEU asking for your help—prioritize it, simply DO IT. That is how we fight back. Everything you care about is on the line. The time is now to stand up and fight. Remember, you get what you fight for, not what you wish for.

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