



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
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AFL-CIO & CLC

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April 7, 2008

Dear Representative,

The GAO Employees Organization, along with our national union, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), is writing to ask for your co-sponsorship of HR 5683, sponsored by House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and District of Columbia Chairman Danny Davis (IL). We believe that among the many important aspects of this legislation is that it goes a long way towards correcting the past couple of years of pay inequities experienced by hundreds of GAO workers.

Changes that GAO made to its pay for performance system using a market based study, along with its restructuring initiative, adversely affected staff morale and raised concerns about fairness in employees' work and pay. Changes implemented in 2006 and 2007 eroded the purchasing power of hundreds of staff whose performance met or exceeded expectations when they did not receive the GAO across-the-board pay adjustment, referred to as a cost-of-living adjustment or COLA. This legislation also sets minimum requirements for future across-the-board pay adjustments that will not only help employees be more certain what their pay will be annually, but will also ensure that all employees that perform at a satisfactory level are guaranteed the annual COLA. The GAO Employees Organization greatly appreciates Chairman Davis' leadership on this legislation to remedy concerns about employees' pay.

Again, we at IFPTE ask for your co-sponsorship of this important legislation. It is supported by the workers at GAO and will help to bring much needed closure on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Harpp
Interim Council Representative
GAO Employees' Organization