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FEW Washington Legislative Update May 1-15, 2024

IN CONGRESS:

Funding the Government: Congressional leaders are racing to pass a [reauthorization for the Federal Aviation Administration](#), and decisions about possible amendments — including a major nuclear energy package — are going down to the wire. Senators will pick up last week's negotiations on amendment proposals, hoping to reach an agreement to vote on the full measure and give the House time to hold its own vote before the FAA's May 10 authorization deadline. While progress had been made toward extending the FAA's authority for five years, there remain landmines that Senate leadership is trying to avoid in order to [complete its work](#) by the end of the week.

FEW Washington Legislative Update – May 1-15, 2024

Tier I

Federal Women:

On Friday, May 3, 2024, [H.R.8029/S.4128](#) - the VA Abortion Transparency Act of 2024 - was referred to the Subcommittee on Health in the House after being initially introduced on April 16, 2024. This bill requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on abortions facilitated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. This information is being provided as information on potential legislative action that could have an impact on current health policies at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

FEW Washington Legislative Update – May 1-15, 2024
Tier II

Federal Workforce:

On Monday, May 6, 2024, [H.Res.1196](#) – the bipartisan resolution introduced by Rep. Gerry Connolly, (D-VA) expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week – was introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. (See resolution below)

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAY 6, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY submitted the following resolution: which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week.

Whereas the week of May 5 through May 11, 2024, has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of individuals serve the public in government service and as members of the uniformed services in every State, county, and city across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public servants provide crucial services to the millions of Americans in their communities and adapt new technological advancements to improve customer experience;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the ability of the Federal Government and State and local governments to be responsive, innovative, and effective depends on the outstanding performance of dedicated public servants;

Whereas the United States continues to reaffirm the critical importance of public service employees in responding to public health and economic challenges;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States and the ideals of democracy around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act ([42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.](#)), including benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act ([42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.](#));

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the parks of the United States;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters, pandemics, and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore Earth, the moon, and space to improve knowledge on how the world changes;

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic stability and growth; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

(1) make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States; and

(2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and to dangers to public health;

Whereas the individuals serving in the uniformed services, as well as the skilled trade and craft employees of the Federal Government who provide support to their efforts—

(1) are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances; and

(2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas; and

(2) serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas legislative branch employees, including members of the United States Capitol Police and officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives, ensure the smooth functioning of Congress and the safety and security of Members of Congress, their staffs, and visitors to the Capitol complex;

Whereas legislative branch employees working for Members of Congress, congressional committees, and legislative branch agencies work tirelessly to serve constituents and support Congress in fulfilling its constitutional obligations;

Whereas public servants have decisively and resolutely responded to conflicts around the globe, including the evolving crisis in Ukraine, through creative diplomatic approaches; and

Whereas the week of May 5 through May 11, 2024, marks the 40th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of “Public Service Recognition Week;”

(2) commends public servants during Public Service Recognition Week for their outstanding contributions to this great country throughout the year;

(3) salutes government employees and members of the uniformed services for their unyielding dedication to, and enthusiasm for, public service;

(4) honors government employees and members of the uniformed services who have given their lives in service to their communities and their country;

(5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession;

(6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at every level of government; and

(7) expresses gratitude to the Federal workers who have selflessly answered the call to serve their country.

FEW Washington Legislative Update – May 1-15, 2024
Tier III

Women as a Class:

On Monday, May 6, 2024, Rep. Kim Young (R-CA) introduced a bipartisan resolution [H.Res.1193](#) recognizing Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week to raise awareness about maternal mental health and its effects on maternal-child health – was introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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