

# FEDERAL WORKERS ALLIANCE

COLLECTIVELY REPRESENTING OVER 550,000 FEDERAL AND POSTAL WORKERS

## Co-sponsor Request for The VA Employee Fairness Act, H.R. 1948

August 19, 2022

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Federal Worker Alliance, a coalition of labor unions representing over 550,000 Federal and Postal workers, we write today urging you to cosponsor H.R. 1948, the VA Employee Fairness Act. This bill, sponsored by Chairman Mark Takano, would guarantee full collective bargaining rights for all clinicians working in the VA, allowing them to improve the VA's ability to provide the highest standards of care for our veterans.

Currently, Section 7422 of Title 38 restricts the collective bargaining rights of select clinical professionals such as nurses, doctors, and dentists in the VA over matters concerning professional conduct or competence, compensation, and patient care. These workers, classified as Title 38 employees, are seeking the same level of collective bargaining rights as other employees in the VA – rights that are also afforded to clinicians in the Department of Defense, other unionized federal employees, and clinicians in the private sector.

Without the ability to bargain collectively over peer review, compensation, and patient care issues, clinicians are unable to speak up on issues related to patient safety, and larger issues in the hospital often go unaddressed. The VA Employee Fairness Act would reduce turnover, increase staff levels, and improve the care that veterans receive by repealing the provisions from Section 7422 that limit collective bargaining rights for VA clinicians. Full collective bargaining rights for all VA employees would improve both the recruitment and retention of qualified clinical professionals working and seeking work in the VHA system.

The arbitrary exclusion of clinicians from the ability to collectively bargain prevents VA hospitals from fulfilling their mission to provide the highest standards of care for our nation's heroes. Without a way to bring the issues affecting veterans to the bargaining table for discussion, the quality of care that veterans receive suffers.

On behalf of the tens of thousands of federal employees we represent, we urge you to cosponsor H.R. 1948 to ensure full collective bargaining rights for all VA employees. To cosponsor the bill, please reach out to Peter Tyler at the House Veterans Affairs Committee at [peter.tyler@mail.house.gov](mailto:peter.tyler@mail.house.gov).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Antilles Consolidated Education Association (ACEA)

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO (AFT)  
Federal Education Association (FEA)  
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)  
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)  
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)  
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)  
National Nurses United (NNU)  
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)  
Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)  
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, AFL-CIO (PASS)  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)