



Testimony of Paul Schwartz

February 25, 2025

House Appropriations Committee

HB1424 – Protect Our Federal Workforce Act

My name is Paul Schwartz and I am Region Vice President for National NARFE (the National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association)

Maryland has more federal employees than any other state and is second only to the District of Columbia.

The dismantling of the federal workforce by the current president and the devastation it is causing to families across this country has never been seen before.

These are real Maryland people with real Maryland families and the time is now to do something to help.

The federal government has had a merit-based employment system since the Pendleton Act passed in 1883 in the aftermath of the Jame A. Garfield assassination, that is, until NOW

Yes, there have been efforts in the past to privatize a good portion of the federal government (Grace Commission under Ronald Reagan), but nothing approaching the devastation of the current efforts

What any of these efforts fail to recognize is that the goal of business may be to make a profit, the goal of government is to provide service – not the same thing

They say it is about eliminating waste and fraud, but that is not true. If it were they would not have fired the Inspectors General and they would not have started with probationary employees who do not yet

have the protections of the Merit Systems Protection Board

The fact is that it is a good deal easier to reclassify unencumbered positions than encumbered positions and that is the goal as spelled out in Project 2025 page 95 and Schedule F now Schedule P/C

Remove as many current employees as possible and replace them with political appointees and make it more difficult to enforce annoying regulations that hamper big business.

We, at NARFE, have joined forces to file suits before the courts, but that takes time.

The victims of DOGE need assistance now.

Pass HB 1424.