

House Bill 1424 – Protect Our Federal Workers Act

FAVORABLE

House Appropriations Committee

February, 21, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Barnes, Vice Chairman Chang, and members of the House Appropriations Committee. My name is Eloise Nancarrow, a 30 year-old Baltimore City resident and lifelong Marylander. I am writing to share my firsthand experience with the recent government layoffs and their profound impact on individuals and communities. Since 2021, I have dedicated my career to public service, contributing to critical health initiatives across multiple federal agencies.

I began my federal career at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), where I spent several years working in drug safety to help ensure the protection of public health. Following that, I served a one-year term with Public Health AmeriCorps, supporting community-based health initiatives. Most recently, I worked as a project specialist for the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where I contributed to advancing public health research and accessibility.

However, after only two months in my new role at NIH, I was illegally terminated due to my transition from Public Health AmeriCorps to NIH. This abrupt job loss not only disrupted my career but also placed me in financial and personal distress.

Beyond the immediate loss of employment, this layoff has placed my well-being in serious jeopardy. Like many others, I rely on my job for access to essential healthcare benefits, including the ability to afford expensive prescription medications. Losing my federal position threatens my ability to obtain these life-sustaining medicines, forcing me into an impossible situation where my health and financial stability are at risk. This is not just a professional setback—it is a matter of survival. The uncertainty, financial strain, and risk of losing healthcare access highlight the human cost of these policy decisions.

As this committee examines the implications of these job losses, I urge the committee to recognize that every eliminated position represents more than a statistic—it represents a person's livelihood, career, and health. **By sharing my story, I hope to underscore that HB 1424 addresses the need for policies that protect dedicated public servants and ensure that those who commit their careers to as public servants are treated with fairness and respect.**

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I stand ready to support efforts that uphold the stability and integrity of our public workforce.

Sincerely,

Eloise Nancarrow

If you have questions for follow up, please contact me at elnancarrow@gmail.com or by calling 443-536-8611.