



Testimony of Paul Schwartz

March 6, 2025

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

SB683 – 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)

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

I devoted my entire 37 year career to federal service and I take this attack personally

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, fraud and abuse, 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 Merit Systems Protection

They even fired immigration judges

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, thereby, make it more difficult to enforce annoying regulations that hamper big business.

Remember, there are fewer federal employees today than there were when the population of the country was 2/3 of what it is today

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

The victims in Maryland of DOGE, Dept of Gov't Efficiency, need assistance now.

Pass SB 683 – the Protect Our Federal Workforce Act

United States District Court for the District of Maryland issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting the Dept of Ed and OPM from disclosing personal information to DOGE