
April 2024

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1. Congressional Shutdown Averted. President Joe Biden signed the final government spending deal into law on Saturday, March 23. The House passed the bill 286-134 vote and was cleared by the Senate 74-24. This final package provides \$1.2 trillion in government funding, covering the remaining half of the 12 annual spending bills and spanning numerous departments, agencies, and a variety of operations. This bill includes over \$824 billion for the Department of Defense (DoD).

2. Support the Equal COLA Act for Retirees under FERS. Federal retirees under FERS should know that when the cost-of living adjustments are made to your annuity, they are reduced by 1%, anytime the COLA adjustment is 3% or higher, which continues to rob our retirees of funds in their retirement--that affect retirees for the rest of our lives. Contact your Representatives and Senators to urge them to support the Equal COLA Act, HR 866/S. 3194.

3. Protect your Entitlements in Today's Congress. Some lawmakers in Congress are pushing to establish a fiscal commission that could fast-track cuts to your federal retirement benefits, along with Social Security and Medicare benefits. The commission would bypass the normal, deliberative committee process and delegate congressional powers to a small leadership-appointed commission. Congress has the obligation to budget and manage federal revenues, spending and deficits. The decisions it makes to do so reflect competing values and priorities. Fiscal commissions outsource deliberations, shielding members of Congress from appropriate democratic accountability for their decisions. In the past such commissions have targeted federal benefits for cuts. Efforts to establish a fiscal commission are gaining steam, and congressional leaders are considering including the language of H.R. 5779 and S. 3262 in upcoming government funding bills. Urge your representatives to oppose H.R. 5779/S.3262

4. FEA-Retired will visit Fort Knox and Fort Campbell next month. NEA-Board member, Michael Priser, will visit Fort Knox on April 15 (Kingsolver Elementary School at 3:45 pm) and Fort Campbell (Barkley Elementary School at 3:30 pm) on April 17. He will share information on how FEA-Retired can assist our members in planning for retirement and how one can maintain their membership in FEA/NEA. If you reside in those local areas, feel free to attend.

5. NEA Retirement Page Has a Whole New Look. The NEA Retired pages on their website have a whole new look. It has been set up to make it easier to navigate and find information that may be useful to you. Check it out and feel free to share your feedback: www.nea.org/retired
