



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of my constituents, I want to express my opposition to changes in compensation for our dedicated public servants that were proposed in the administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget request.

Our federal employees have already been contributing significantly for the cause of deficit reduction. They have been subject to lower increases in pay including pay freezes along with hiring freezes, higher required employee contributions to the federal retirement programs, and a government shutdown. We should not forget these sacrifices and remember that our nation's finances cannot be repaired with such cuts to our civil servants.

If we attempt to do so we risk losing dedicated officials, many with decades of talent, who were promised a certain degree of financial security upon assuming their careers and that same promise extends to our retirees who don't have the luxury of changing professions in their golden years. We need to think holistically about how our government functions and the importance of these men and women in defending us from threats, enforcing our laws, caring for those in need, educating the public, and so many more functions.

Our budget needs work, but I respectfully urge that we do not saddle our civil servants and their families with such heavy financial burdens when they serve critical purposes and have already given so much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Comstock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress