

December 18, 2017

Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the more than 1000 union employees working at the Government Publishing Office (GPO), we are writing to share our profound disappointment with the direction that the Committee on House Administration appears to be heading with regard to the essential work that union members perform every day at the GPO.

Specifically, it has come to our attention that the Committee is considering legislation to amend Title 44 in a manner that will directly threaten jobs while failing to realize any significant reduction in cost or improvement of service at the GPO.

As we understand it, the proposal being considered authorizes congressional printing and publishing to be contracted out despite the fact that there is no indication that any funds can be saved by this practice. Quite the contrary, previous reviews of this issue have shown that contracting out congressional printing work may increase costs significantly. The proposal also allows Federal agencies to produce or procure their own printing below a certain dollar value, which could increase such costs by as much as 50 percent and result in an increased number of documents that do not get included in the depository library system.

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As drafted, this proposal undermines the rights and very livelihoods of union members at the GPO. A proposal like this, to dramatically reform Title 44 should be written collaboratively and in a bipartisan fashion, with the input of all stakeholders especially GPO employees and their union leadership.

We urge you to pull this proposal from consideration and start over with the full participation of all stakeholders at the table. If this proposal moves to mark-up in its current form, we urge you to vote “no.”

Sincerely,

American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)  
Communications Workers of America (CWA)  
International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)  
National Education Association (NEA)  
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)  
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)  
Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)