

**Jan. 4, 2017**

**Congressional Update: House Passes “Holman Rule”**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Monday, House Republicans passed an updated rules package for the 115th Congress which establishes the procedural and operating rules for the House. The package reinstates what is known as the “Holman Rule,” which the press has reported could make it easier for Congress to reduce the number of federal employees and cut their pay.

This vote took place during a late-night Republican Conference meeting scheduled to review a variety of changes to House rules. During the meeting, Congressmen Tom Cole, R-Okla., and Rob Bishop, R-Utah proposed an amendment to strike the Holman Rule language from the package. NATCA supported that amendment. Over the holiday weekend, NATCA Government Affairs staff, National Legislative Committee, and NATCAvists worked hard to garner support for the Cole-Bishop amendment and kill the Holman language. In order for the amendment to pass, it needed a majority of the Republican caucus support. Unfortunately, it ultimately came up short of the approximately 120-plus Republicans needed to pass.

The Holman Rule will consider amendments to be in order during the consideration of appropriations bills on the House floor, if the amendments reduce the amounts of money in the bill, reduce the number and salary of officers of the United States, or reduce the compensation of any person paid out of the Treasury of the United States. Congress eliminated the rule in 1983 and it hasn't returned since, due to bipartisan opposition. On Tuesday, the full House of Representatives passed the rules package (H. Res. 5) by a vote of 234-193, meaning the Holman Rule will now be in effect for the first session of this 115th Congress (2017).

There's no doubt that harmful amendments will be introduced during consideration of appropriations bills on the House floor based upon the Holman Rule. NATCA will count on our allies in Congress to prevail in order to defeat those amendments if and when the body considers them.

NATCA will continue monitoring this and all other important issues affecting federal employees. We will also continue working hard to represent your interests on Capitol Hill.

In Solidarity,

Paul Rinaldi  
President

Trish Gilbert  
Executive Vice President