



Adopted July 27, 2022
Amended April 28, 2026

(Submitted by AFGE in 2022)

Resolution

Protecting Federal Employees: The Federal Government as a Model for Providing Workers a Secure Retirement

Whereas the Federal Government directly employs around two and a half million public servants, it should be a model for the private sector on providing workers a secure retirement after a lifetime of hard work; and

Whereas a Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA) is determined to ensure pension payments continue to cover rising costs, yet employees under the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) arbitrarily receive a COLA that can be up to one-third less in years of high inflation; and

Whereas the CPI-U, the current measurement of inflation used for Social Security, CSRS, and as the basis for FERS, with a reduction in high inflation years, is an inaccurate measurement of the spending patterns and inflation faced by retirees and other older Americans; and

Whereas District of Columbia workers were covered under the federal pension system until 1987 reforms left new District public servants without adequate pension coverage; and

Whereas millions of Federal Retirees and other older Americans depend on the Social Security Administration (SSA) to provide them with assistance in claiming their needed retirement benefits, but have seen offices close and services suffer while SSA's budget has been slashed even as the number of Social Security beneficiaries has grown; and

Whereas millions of federal retirees and older Americans rely on the Social Security Administration (SSA) for timely and accurate benefit processing and customer service; and

Whereas recent workforce reductions across federal agencies, including mass firings, early retirements, and resignations, have significantly diminished the federal workforce and undermined many federal agencies' ability to carry out their missions; and

Whereas the Social Security Administration has lost thousands of experienced employees with decades of institutional knowledge, including approximately 7,000 workers forced out in the past year, exacerbating staffing shortages; and

Whereas these workforce losses have contributed to worsening service disruptions, including longer wait times on SSA's national phone lines, increased backlogs in disability and retirement claims processing, reduced in-person services,

and growing delays that harm beneficiaries who depend on timely access to earned benefits; and

Whereas the Social Security Administration has faced chronic underfunding, staffing shortages, and increased workloads as the beneficiary population grows; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance strongly supports legislation that proposes increasing administrative funding for the Social Security Administration, including setting funding targets to restore staffing levels, reduce backlogs, and improve customer service; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance supports the 2025 Equal COLA Act, S. 624 and H.R. 491, which would ensure federal retirees under FERS do not face an arbitrary reduction in their COLA during high inflation years; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Alliance supports using a more accurate measure of inflation for retirees, the CPI-E, to calculate the COLA for all retirees; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Alliance supports the repeal of provisions enacted in 2012 and 2013 that raise mandatory pension contributions of new federal employees to 4.4 percent and apply any part of the retiree contribution to deficit reduction instead of funding federal employees' retirement; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Alliance supports ensuring that all District of Columbia public workers are given

access to a pension that will ensure a secure retirement after a lifetime of hard work; and

Therefore, be it finally resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans supports increasing the funding for the operations of the Social Security Administration so that it can better serve federal retirees and the American public.