

# AFGE News Alert

## for Federal Employees

### Pension Cuts & Pay Freeze Pushed by Anti-Government Conservatives AFGE Fights Back

The pension, pay, and jobs of AFGE members are under renewed attack by anti-government employee leaders in Congress. Here's an AFGE News Alert update:

- On May 27, Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Tom Coburn (R-OK) proposed an amendment to freeze federal pay and cap the number of federal employee jobs. AFGE defeated that amendment by a vote of 54-45. (*S. Amendment #4231 to H.R. 4899, May 27, 2010*)
- The very next day, House Republican Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA) and Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN) asked the full House to vote on a pay freeze. AFGE defeated that effort by a vote of 227 – 183. (*Roll Call Vote 334, May 28, 2010*). And Senator John Thune (R-SD) tried another pay freeze and job cap amendment on June 17, which also was defeated by a vote of 57-41. (*S. Amendment #4376 to H.R. 4213, June 17, 2010*)
- The week of July 5, these same conservative leaders announced their intention to cut federal pensions. They propose to change how pensions are calculated (using your highest earnings for 5 years instead of the current high 3) and to eliminate early retirement benefits. That will cost you thousands of your hard-earned retirement dollars. A vote has yet to occur but the intention is very clear. Calculate what you'll lose by using the “*They Cut, You Pay*” *Pension Cut Calculator* at <http://theycutyoupay.afge.org> or on the AFGE website at [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org).

“These attacks are an insult to VA doctors and nurses who take care of our veterans, Social Security employees who serve retirees and the disabled, Defense employees who support our troops, scientists who find cures to diseases and the employees who protect public safety at our borders, in our airports, within federal prisons and at mines and food processing plants,” said AFGE President John Gage. “It is simply wrong to scapegoat and devalue the employees who perform such important work for the American public every day”.

AFGE will continue to aggressively fight back against these attacks. And we will keep you informed with regular news updates. For more information please visit the AFGE website at [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org) where you can sign up for the AFGE Action News which will give you specific information on how and when to contact your lawmakers.

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