

*American Federation of Government Employees
Local 12, AFL-CIO*

May 23, 2017

RE: President's Proposed DOL Budget for FY 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

While the numbers below do not look good, please understand that we are at the beginning of long drawn out legislative process and not a single budget item has passed by either the House of Representatives or the Senate. And as most of you are aware, even when both branches of Congress are controlled by the same political party rarely do the House and Senate concur on appropriations. There will be a need for a conference committee between the House and the Senate to reach a final appropriation; these Budget numbers are not set in stone. In fact, based on the past behavior of Congress, it is doubtful that a FY 2018 budget will be passed by September 30th of 2017.

There will be push back against these cuts. While we cannot promise what the end result will be, it is rare, if not impossible for a President's entire Budget to be passed without amendment. Even if these proposed cuts are passed, there is an entire process, (including but not limited to studies, bargaining, and what is known as bumping and retreating into a previous position you may have held), that takes months if not at least a year before the national office of the Department would even address the issue of a Reduction in Force (RIF).^[1] While we do not always agree with career management, we do have a positive relationship with the Agency when it comes to the placement of displaced DOL employees.

If you looked at the proposed numbers, the three offices in the national office of the Department of Labor that are facing the biggest possible cutbacks are the Women's Bureau, the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance

(OFCCP). While there are proposed budget cuts in Job Corps and OSHA, those proposed cuts are in the field offices and not the national office. In addition, five programs will be getting slight increases in their compliance programs- Wage and Hour, the Office of the Solicitor (SOL), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Office of Labor Management Standards (OLMS), and the Employee Benefits and Securities Administration (EBSA). We are confident that even if bargaining unit employees are displaced in ILAB, OFCCP, and the Women's Bureau; there are opportunities in the five (5) compliance programs for national office employees. Career placement which we maintain will be easier to implement because of the success of the ROAD program; DOL bargaining unit employees have work experience with Agencies in DOL other than the Agency where they are currently employed.

Finally, the reduction in the number of Full Time Employees (or FTEs) in the proposed budget often includes vacant positions. So we ask that you be patient and calm as we work our way through the process. And as always, we ask that you go to our national website www.afge.org and find out how you can get active outside the federal workplace.

In Solidarity,
Alex Bastani