

# FEDERAL-POSTAL COALITION

April 19, 2012

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the nearly five million federal and postal workers and retirees represented by the national member organizations of the Federal-Postal Coalition, we respectfully urge you to support Akaka Amendment 2034 to S. 1789, the postal reform bill currently being considered by the Senate. The Akaka amendment would prevent unfair and substantial cuts to government-wide Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) insurance benefits provided to injured federal workers. It would replace the benefit cuts with the language of the FECA reform bill, H.R. 2465, which already has been passed by the House. The bipartisan bill refocuses reforms towards improving and modernizing the workers' compensation program as the appropriate means to save costs.

The FECA program is intended to compensate federal employees for work-caused injuries and illnesses. In exchange for their benefits, FECA recipients lose their right to sue the government for their work-related impairment.

The current language of S. 1789 reduces benefit levels by 25 percent for workers at or above retirement age without any program to ensure adequate retirement income, whether through retirement savings accounts or otherwise. It also eliminates the augmented benefit for injured workers with children or other dependents. With exceptions, these changes would apply retroactively to individuals already injured.

The Akaka amendment would substitute the bipartisan FECA reform language that already has been passed by the House of Representatives. The language provides common-sense reforms that achieve cost savings for taxpayers and improves fairness towards disabled workers without punishing individuals who have suffered serious injuries in the line of duty.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote in favor of Akaka Amendment 2034 to S. 1789.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Foreign Service Association (AFSA)  
American Postal Workers Union (APWU)  
Federally Employed Women (FEW)  
Federal Managers Association (FMA)  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)  
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)  
Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA)  
National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA)  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

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National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV)  
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)  
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)  
National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA)  
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)  
National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU)  
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)  
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)  
Patent Office Professional Association  
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)  
Professional Managers Association (PMA)