



Sunset Caucus

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Taxpayer-Subsidized Union Activities

December 9, 2009

Program or Item Targeted: Taxpayer-subsidized union activities among federal employees.

One-Year Cost of Program or Item: According to a recent OPM survey, over \$120 million for fiscal year 2008 was spent by some 61 federal agencies.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: Federal law (Title V, United States Code) allows federal employees to use official time for union activities, including collective bargaining and arbitration of grievances.

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: Recent increases in union activity have led to a less efficient federal workforce. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) conducted an extensive survey of 61 executive agencies and departments for FY 2008 to determine the amount of official time and wages spent on union activity. OPM reported that nearly 3 million official time hours were used for union activities in FY 2008. Further, the report found that in FY 2008 alone, these 61 agencies spent over \$120 million on union activities, an increase from approximately \$113 million in FY 2007. While families all over the nation are tightening their belts and cutting down their own spending, taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize union activities for federal employees.

Legislative Steps Taken So Far: Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-GA) has introduced H.R. 3251, the Federal Employee Accountability Act of 2009, which repeals two sections of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 to ensure that no employee of the federal government can use official time to collectively bargain on behalf of a union against their employer. The bill currently has 27 co-sponsors in the House.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: RSC Members are encouraged to co-sponsor H.R. 3251 by contacting Robert Watts at Robert.watts@mail.house.gov or 5-2931.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail brad.watson@mail.house.gov.

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact ryan.tronovitch@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."*

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Republican Study Committee