



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. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Taxpayer-Subsidized Union Activities

March 9, 2010

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 61 federal agencies on union activities.

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 fiscal year 2008 outlining the number of official time hours and amount of time wage cost spent on union activity. OPM reported that 2,893,922 official time hours were used in collective bargaining or arbitration of grievances against an employer in fiscal year 2008. Further, the report found that in FY 2008 alone, the federal government spent \$120,730,471 on these same union activities, an increase from \$113,038,094 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. 122, the Federal Employee Accountability Act of 2011. This legislation repeals two sections of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 and will ensure that no employee of the federal government can use official time to collectively bargain on behalf of a union against their employer.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: RSC Members are encouraged to cosponsor H.R. 122 by contacting Robert Watts at Robert.Watts@mail.house.gov or 5-2931. This legislation has been cosponsored by over 40 Members, and has been endorsed by the Americans for Tax Reform, Alliance for Worker Freedom, Citizens Against Government Waste, Americans for Prosperity, National Taxpayers Union, and the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus please e-mail Curtis.Rhyne@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."*

RSC 
Republican Study Committee