



(January 14, 2016)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: Bill to lengthen probation for new feds passes House panel**  
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“By bringing up these ill-conceived bills just two weeks into the New Year, it’s clear that House leadership is going to continue pursuing an anti-worker agenda,” AFGE president J. David Cox Sr. said in a statement. “These bills would punish the whole workforce for the potential actions of a few and would undermine basic principles of due process that have been in place for decades.”

The bill; sponsored by Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Mich.; gives agency heads the ability to remove or demote a SES member to a General Schedule level if they deem appropriate, extends the probationary period for new hires from one year to two and provides for expedited review of appeals, among other provisions.

“Unfortunately, scandals perpetuated by senior executive branch officials have shown that some senior leaders failed to meet the standards of federal leaders,” Walberg said at the Jan. 12 hearing. “This committee has held numerous hearings on the lack of accountability in the SES, and it is essential to restore the public’s confidence in the government’s executive corps.” Walberg went on to compare the bill to 2014’s Veterans Access Choice and Accountability Act, which included a similar provision for removing SES employees for misconduct with in the Department of Veterans Affairs and passed with bipartisan support.