

NARFE Seattle Chapter 0043 Meeting

November 20, 2025

Guest Speaker: Doug Rushton, Washington State Federation (WSF) Legislative Chair



Mr. Michael Tanaka, Outreach and Grants Coordinator for US Representative Pramila Jayapal was unable to speak at our November chapter meeting. At the last minute, WSF LEG Chair Doug Rushton kindly agreed to speak.

WSF LEG Chair Rushton outlined the status of four NARFE-supported bills that are important for us to reach out to our legislator if they are not on the list of cosponsors. Cosponsors from Washington state are indicated for each bill and this information is current as of November 16, 2025. NARFE supports each of these bills.

This information is from Bill Tracker in the monthly NARFE Magazine:

[H.R. 491/S.624: Equal COLA Act.](#) Makes FERS COLAs the same as CSRS. Fifty-seven house cosponsors (DelBene & Randall). Murray is one of 14 Senate cosponsors. **[S.624.](#)**

[H.R. 492/S.134: Saving the Civil Service Act of 2025.](#) Blocks return to schedule F (AKA "Schedule Policy/Career"). Keeps merit-based approach. Eighty-nine House cosponsors (DelBene, Larsen, and Randall from WA). Twenty-two cosponsors in the Senate, one of which is Murray. **[S.134.](#)**

[H.R. 493/S.126: Federal Adjustment of Income Rates \(FAIR\) Act.](#) Proposes 4.3% federal employees pay increase with a 3.3% across the board increase and an average locality pay increase of 1%. Fourteen Senate cosponsors, none from WA; 36 House cosponsors, two of which are DelBene and Randall.

H.R. 2550/S.2837 Protect America's Workforce Act. Overturns executive order against certain unions. 47 Senate cosponsors (Cantwell & Murray are cosponsors); 223 House cosponsors (from WA –DelBene, Jayapal, Larsen, Gluesenkamp Perez, Randall, Schrier, Smith, & Strickland).

WSF LEG Chair Rushton stated that the NARFE advocacy on-line bill tracker is updated every week. Members can access the link [**here**](#):

1. Federal Benefits
2. Federal Annuities
3. Federal Personnel Policy
4. Federal Compensation
5. Postal Service

It is located on the NARFE website under Advocacy and then Advocacy Resources

WSF LEG Chair Rushton provided additional interesting background information on the above House Resolutions:

The original sponsor for 491, 492, and 493 was Rep. Connolly from Virginia. He, unfortunately, died in May. So, Virginia had a special election to replace him. The victor of that election was Walkinshaw, who was Connolly's chief of staff. He got a special unanimous House dispensation to be considered as the first sponsor of all three of these bills.

Congress.gov to get the bill language, cosponsors, disposition of the bill, any action take.

Just type in the bill number and it'll give you some options of the dates of the various bills which have had the same number – make sure you sort it or you'll get all the bills that have been introduced over a really long period of times. **The current Congress is the 119th.**