

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2024

Ms. Julie Su
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Acting Secretary Su,

Across the federal government, employee unions are fighting tooth and nail to stop agencies from bringing their members back to the office. This fight most recently came to your agency's doorstep. Specifically, outside the John F. Kennedy Federal Building in Boston, Massachusetts, where members of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 948 showed up to the office... to protest for more telework.¹

Here is a photo of their protest.²



¹ Loss, Hannah, *Federal Workers Rally in Boston to Protect Telework Flexibility*, WGHB (Mar. 20, 2024, at 11:00 AM), <https://www.wggb.org/news/local/2024-03-19/federal-workers-rally-in-boston-to-protect-telework-flexibility>.

² *Id.*

Clearly, these employees know how much more effective they can be when they show up in person. We just wish they had the same level of dedication to serving Americans that they do to serving themselves.

To assist us in our oversight work, please answer the following questions as soon as possible but no later than April 10, 2024.

1. How much taxpayer-funded union time did representatives of AFGE Local 948 log with the Department of Labor (DOL) in the four weeks preceding their rally on March 19, 2024?
2. Were the DOL employees paid—either through taxpayer-funded union time reimbursements or otherwise—for their protest against returning to the office, which they staged at their office?
3. If so, what is the cost to the DOL—including but not limited to labor and resources—of this protest?

As White House Chief of Staff Zients said in January, agencies are still “not where they need to be” on returning employees to the office.³ If your employees can show up to the office to protest, they can show up to the office to work.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request. If you have questions regarding this request for information, please feel free to reach out to us or our staffs at 202-224-3254 and 202-225-1252, respectively.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress

³ Nichols, Hans, *Scoop: WH Demands Proof From Cabinet Officials on Return-to-Office*, Axios (Mar. 20, 2024, at 11:30 AM), <https://www.axios.com/2024/01/19/zients-biden-cabinet-return-to-office>.