SEA Washington Report- April 2025

As we engage with lawmakers on Capitol Hill, SEA is often asked for illustrative details about issues going on with programs, agencies, or personal stories about employees impacted by decisions of the administration. **WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU.** SEA's ability to share insights and information with policymakers and reporters greatly relies upon feedback received from SEA members. Please share issues that merit attention or stories to share with SEA Policy Director <u>Jason Briefel</u> to confidentially share them with SEA leaders.

The association continues to advocate for needed reform and modernization of government and the civil service. SEA's updated **policy agenda** is focused on key areas that have long required attention, including SES/Manager/Leader election and Development, Performance Management & Accountability, Hiring, Pay & Total Rewards, Advancing Modern Work & Workplace Policies. As an SEA member, you are invited to join SEA's Policy Committee and/or attend committee monthly meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday April 17, 3-4pm ET.

SEA is promoting our <u>Joint SES Policy Agenda</u> reforms including improving senior-level talent management and strengthening connectivity between political and career leadership. Meanwhile SEA continues to closely monitor the administration's policies related to Senior Executives and Senior Professionals and act accordingly. The association disagrees with politicizing these positions contrary to Congress' statutory intent and the laws and rules governing these roles. SEA is working to track executive positions being converted to political billets and act accordingly – and will be reaching out to SEA members for assistance soon.

As Congress moves forward with budget and reconciliation plans this spring, SEA is proactively working with our allies in the Federal Postal Coalition, the Government Managers Coalition, and others to oppose over \$50 billion in planned cuts to earned pay and benefits of federal employees through policies such as increased retirement and healthcare contributions and shifting pension calculations from High 3 to High 5, and more. Join SEA in our efforts --Contact your members of Congress (on your own time and own devices) to urge them to oppose on these proposed cuts.

SEA is working with a growing coalition of partners and stakeholders to support civil servants and make the case for an effective government that works for all Americans. This collaboration has served as an effective platform for info sharing, coalition building and strategizing. Representatives from the following are parties to this collaboration:

- Federal-Postal Coalition an alliance of more than thirty labor unions, management and membership associations representing the interests of over 5 million current and retired federal and postal employees who live and work in every state.
- Government Managers Coalition consists of the five major federal-sector executive and management professional associations representing over 300,000 executives and managers in the federal government.
- <u>Civil Service Strong</u> coalition of organizations working to support public servants and coordinate resources and action.
- Democracy 2025 coalition of 500+ organizations representing millions of people, committed to disrupting any efforts to attack our rights, our freedoms, and our democracy through strategic legal action in courtrooms and communities across the country.
- Open Government Roundtable civil society organizations across the entire
 political spectrum focused on government transparency and accountability. SEA's
 good government mission often overlaps with the common sense reforms
 pursued by civil society advocates; we worked closely with this community to
 pass the PLUM Act into law.

Looking ahead, SEA is preparing for <u>Public Service Recognition Week</u> #PSRW2025 – May 4-10. PSRW is a time for celebration and telling the stories of public service in communities across the nation. During PSRW, SEA and advocates will also be active on Capitol Hill. More details on PSRW opportunities to get involved and to celebrate are forthcoming.