

Union Applauds DoD Insourcing Amendment

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The American Federation of Government Employees applauded a measure that it says will level the playing field when federal DoD employees are competing with private contractors for jobs.

The measure, included in the Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 5136), excludes health care and retirement costs from any insourcing cost comparisons when contractors contribute less toward those benefits than Congress requires of DoD.

The amendment, sponsored by Tom Perriello, D-Va., was added on the floor to the House defense bill, and is the same approach used for outsourcing cost comparisons during the previous administration. H.R. 5136 passed the House May 28 by a 229-186 vote; a vote in the full Senate is pending.

"The Perriello amendment ensures a more level playing field in the DoD when it comes to either keeping jobs with the federal government or outsourcing them," said AFGE President John Gage. "Contractors should not be rewarded for contributing less toward employee health care and retirement benefits than the federal government."