

Group Lobbies against Insourcing Push

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D.C.-based TechAmerica submitted a letter to members of the Senate Wednesday asking for language that encourages the insourcing of contractor positions to be removed from the omnibus appropriations bill.

Specifically, the industry group calls for the removal of section 742 of the bill, which according to the letter would "undermine private sector employment and seriously erode the very innovation we need for a smarter government in the 21st century" by mandating for federal agencies to insource work currently performed by contractors.

Among other things, section 742 says that an agency can't begin, plan for, or announce a competition that would convert to contractors any function performed by federal employees until the agency has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a report showing actions taken to also convert to federal employees functions performed by contractors.

So, in plain language, the bill would require agencies to perform an inventory whenever they want industry to bid for government work, finding contracted functions to bring in-house.

TechAmerica said the measure "flies in the face of current law and administration guidance," and "makes it difficult and sometimes impossible for government agencies to draw upon the latest commercial technology solutions and to tap some of our country's brightest minds."