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To: David C. Childs A-76comments/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: EMERGENCY

Distinguished Reader:

I am a government employee who will be impacted by the A76 program. I believe you must stop the push toward outsourcing the Information Technology Positions in the Department of Defense. I believe that it will have a greatly adverse impact on the Defense Departments Information Systems. Federal employees have proven their worth in the past and if given the opportunity will continue to do so. As a taxpayer, I have kept up with the research and we will not save any money in this country by privatizing. It will cost more and more each year to contract these positions out, not to mention the security risks.

The IT Contracting world is too volatile to be depended upon for our defenses and in servicing our soldiers. The field changes greatly and, therefore, the private contractor's employees must and have proven themselves to be unstable at best. They move about from company to company, learning the newest technology and, with it, securing the best personal wage. They have proven to be undependable for this reason, in the IT field. Also, those that do work our contracts will get their training at our and the taxpayer's expense and, once shortly thereafter, they will leave us in a lurch and move on to a higher paying position with another company, taking the knowledge of our Defense Systems with them. This happens all the time, but the reports are squelched. The opposite is the case with Government employees; they have proven, time and time again, to continuously learn, while remaining dedicated, loyal and content toward their Government employers and bosses. This is because, at the root, they were not interested in money but in stability and a career of service to their country. It all sounded good to them and they have kept their commitments to integrity.

If you do not believe that government employees can do a better job than the lowest bidder then, when fighting a war, why not hire mercenaries?! As the mother of a soldier, I am very concerned with his future and that of all soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen. Such a drastic and sudden change, considering such simple things as learning curves for these private contractors, will jeopardize the integrity of this Agency's business and therefore jeopardize my son and others - who depend on our DoD support services and information systems.

The Defense Department will be doing an injustice to our soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen who depend on us to support them for the defense of the homeland, from the smallest military deployment, to the largest of military campaigns. And they will be putting our men and women at risk, all because of cost accounting. And eve Washington is split on the cost accounting facts. The numbers and reports that state a savings are very questionable and the debates continue. But, what is different here is that the current administration is corporate friendly and anti-worker.

You must halt this dangerously reckless and purely political action of privatizing our defense. As I have stated above I am the proud parent of a Non-Commissioned Officer, who has spent the last 11 years as a proud soldier. He has told us on numerous occasions that he is lucky to have parents such as us, who allow him to fulfill his dreams of being a soldier. As you are well aware of, he does not make enough money each month to support himself. He has put off having a family of his own at this time, because he depends on us each month for money to get by. My husband, his father is a retired firefighter and earns a limited pension. I (his mother) make enough so that we are able to send him money each month. If you implement this A76 program, I am afraid at my age (over 50) I will not be equally employable. Consequently, to now help support me and my husband, my son will have to consider leaving his career as a soldier for the U.S. Army. If I lose my job, you may lose a great soldier!

My son told me that he has more confidence in the ability of government employees than that of civilians doing their jobs. He has worked with private contractors in Bosnia and Korea and has stated that their lack of strong emotional connection with the United States Government and military will play a devastating part in the inevitable war with Iraq, as well as the ongoing War on Terrorism.

An Angry and Worried
Federal Employee and Mother of a Soldier

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