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

I was amazed when I read that all government jobs are being concerned "commercial". Has anyone ever looked at what is now contracted through A-76 studies to see if the government is actually getting what it is paying for or if it is even saving government dollars. From the phone calls I get, it appears contractors are not able to actually serve the people or do the job in the same manner as was being done before A-76. The standard line I hear is "They don't know", "They don't have time", "They say it's not their job"; these are from people calling across the U.S. to see if our office can help them, since we are still doing what we were hired to do.

My other concern is who will go to war when all the "commercial" jobs have been filled by contractors? Before A-76, many positions were filled by military, which are now filled by contractors. On the surface, this may seem brilliant for it's ability to release military to do "its mission", but in fact, it is often better to have a dual-trained military member available to augment security forces in time of terrorism or conflict. There is much more "bang for the buck".

We seem to have forgotten that the military often trains personnel for jobs after their service time is over, so they become viable members of society. With this new direction, not only are members deployed constantly, because there are so few of them, but they will be trained only for combat related occupations. Is this really what we want.

I came to civil service later in life, after varied experience following a military member around the world. I am proud of what I do, and how I do it. I am not living off the public trough. I could make more and have better benefits elsewhere. I resent this new, improved bashing of the public employee. I often wonder why Congress will grant themselves a higher and more often pay raise than other public servants. Why not link their pay raises to those of other public servants. The government service employees often receive lower pay raises than private companies and are at least 15% behind currently, but we continue to give our best because we believe in this country and have chosen to support it. Don't lose that support to commercial ventures who only look at how much profit they can make, rather than how well they can do the job.

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With God all things are possible! Jackie