AMENDMENT TO H.R. 273
OFFERED BY MS. EDWARDS OF MARYLAND

Page 2, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 2. STUDY TO ASSESS IMPACT OF CONTINUED ATTACKS ON FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Federal employees perform critical and broad functions on behalf of the American people, which include working on the front lines against terrorism, protecting our borders, safeguarding our food and medicines, protecting consumers and restoring confidence in our financial system, providing health care to our veterans, and delivering many other vital services to our Nation.

(2) Duties performed by the Federal workforce require advanced skills, and, on average, Federal workers are older, more experienced, and better educated than private-sector workers.

(3) Over the last several decades, the relative size of the Federal Government has declined, even as the population in the United States has increased.
(4) Federal employees have been targeted in recent deficit reduction efforts and have already contributed $103 billion over 10 years through pay freezes and increased retirement benefit contributions.

(5) Many Federal agencies have experienced budget cuts, while their responsibilities and missions have grown.

(6) According to the 2012 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, overall morale and satisfaction among Federal employees has decreased.

(7) Over time, continued attacks diminish the Government’s ability to recruit, hire, train, and retain a talented and highly-skilled workforce, thereby weakening the quality of our Federal civil service.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report assessing the impact of continued attacks on Federal employees, including pay freezes, increased pension contributions, and Federal budget cuts, in addition to, the frequent threat of a Government shutdown through debt ceiling negotiations, sequestration deadlines, and appropriations lapses, on the capacity of the Government to—
(1) recruit, hire, train, and retain an educated, experienced, and competent workforce to perform inherently governmental functions critical to serving and protecting the American people;

(2) maintain institutional knowledge, technical skills, and subject matter expertise to perform critical tasks;

(3) make internal and independent judgments; and

(4) sustain sufficient oversight over governmental functions, missions, and operations.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.