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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 23, 2014**

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**EEOC UNION TO ATTEND WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT ON WORKING FAMILIES TO  
URGE EEOC TO EMBRACE TELEWORK FOR ITS OWN WORKERS**

The National Council of EEOC Locals, No. 216, AFGE/AFL-CIO (Council 216) represents bargaining unit employees at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Council 216 is attending the White House Summit on Working Families to acquire information on workplace flexibility options and to encourage EEOC to apply these flexibilities in-house.

According to Council 216 President Gabrielle Martin, “There is a disconnect where EEOC fails to practice what it preaches. Telework is a prime example. EEOC advocates telework for the public, but blocks adding one day of telework per biweekly period for its own employees.”

EEOC has been outspoken in the press and to the courts about the benefits of workplace flexibilities like telework for caregivers, women, and the disabled. In fact, 63% of EEOC’s workforce is female, a greater percentage than is represented in the Federal or general workforce. As with any workforce, these female workers at EEOC are comprised of mothers who are the primary household providers, single moms, one of two working parents in the family, and women providing care to an aging relative.

EEOC placed dead last in the category of “Work-Life Balance,” 21st out of 21 midsize agencies, in the 2013 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government Rankings. “This should be a red flag to the EEOC that it’s time to put its own house in order,” says Martin.

Martin states, “If telework is good for the public, then surely it is good for EEOC workers.” However, while EEOC’s new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) increases telework from four to five days in a biweekly period, EEOC is blocking local office agreements that include the extra day. EEOC’s tortured explanation is that the additional day is only available if employees work 9 to 10 hour days and earn it as a day off.

Martin states, “The Union is mystified. EEOC promotes telework to the public as a workplace flexibility. Telework is good for the environment. Telework is good for productivity. Telework could help EEOC reach it’s goal of 20% space savings. Telework can help with the hiring and retention of disabled workers, where EEOC is below its target. Adding a day of telework helps the agency meet all of these goals. It is stunning that EEOC wants to limit telework.”

Martin says, “We are urging supporters of workplace flexibilities, environmental advocates, disability and pregnancy rights groups, employee groups, and all those who care about work life balance to call, e-mail or tweet and **tell EEOC to telework 5**. Green is the color of the campaign to signify the environmental benefits of expanded telework that EEOC is blocking”

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