

# CREAgram

CREA IFPTE Local 75

Library of Congress ■ 101 Independence Ave., SE ■ CRS LM-412 ■ Washington, DC 20540-7999  
Phone: 202-707-7636 ■ Fax: 202-707-8068 ■ [crea@crs.loc.gov](mailto:crea@crs.loc.gov) ■ [www.crealocal75.org](http://www.crealocal75.org)

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## CREA President Presents Petition to CRS Director Mulhollan

A petition objecting to CRS Director Daniel Mulhollan's decision to eliminate all production support, technical support assistant, and audio-visual positions within CRS was presented to him by CREA President Dennis Roth on October 20, 2005. The Director had no response at that time nor has there been response since. An opportunity to present a copy of the signed petition to the Librarian of Congress, James Billington, has been denied by the Librarian's office.

As we are all painfully aware, the Director's alleges that CRS must eliminate the jobs of 59 fellow CRS employees. As part of CREA's efforts to alter the Director's decision, CREA drafted and circulated a petition that allowed concerned CRS staff to voice their opposition. In three weeks, over 300 CRS employees (out of about 540 non supervisory/managerial employees) signed the petition. This does not include those who wanted to sign it, but were unable to before it was delivered to the Director. Nor does it include the many CRS employees who wished to express their dismay but feared retaliation if their names were seen.

In a show of solidarity with their sister union, other unions at the Library are circulating similar petitions among their members. These, too, will be presented to the Director and the Librarian, to indicate the breadth to which the whole Library disagrees with and will be affected by a CRS RIF.

The text of the petition follows:

**We, the undersigned, object to the elimination of 59 existing production support, technical support, and audiovisual positions at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) by September 30, 2006. The action, ostensibly in response to fiscal constraints, purports to reengineer administrative functions within CRS, facilitate CRS's analytical capacity, and ensure accountability to Congress. Management has presented no evidence that this action meets these goals. Although the short- and long-term consequences for the affected staff and entire organization were mentioned in the Director's memorandum, we believe those consequences have been misunderstood, if not minimized.**

**These changes are supposed to be based on the need to match work requirements with the most appropriate resources. At a minimum, the affected individuals should receive hiring priority or be retrained for the newly restructured positions. We question the business sense inherent in the message that certain staff are disposable. The incentive and buyout sequence is poorly timed; affected employees do not have information about the rewritten positions, while the buyout deadline is December of this year. Beyond the human aspect of this dilemma, we are concerned that administrative and technical support that is integral to our core analytic mission will not be available over the next year. The long-term consequences for CRS's ability to serve Congress effectively are also disturbing.**

**We strongly urge that this unjust staffing decision be withdrawn.**

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**Keeping the lines of communication open**