

May 2, 2016

The Honorable Mark Takai
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Takai:

On behalf of the managers and supervisors currently serving our nation in the federal government and whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), we extend our deepest thanks for sponsoring the amendment to the fiscal year 2017 House National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4909) that would repeal cuts to Department of Defense (DOD) temporary duty assignment (TDY) per diem allowances for civilian employees. In November 2014, DOD issued reductions to TDY per diem allowances for civilian defense employees on TDY between 30 and 180 by 25 percent, while those over 180 days face a 45 percent reduction.

These extreme cuts put undue financial burdens on these dedicated employees who struggle to meet these per diem requirements or are forced to make up any up front cost differences out of their own pockets due to the fact that these new rates will price them out of markets. This financial uncertainty causes DOD civilian employees to hesitate to volunteer to TDY service. Since the cuts were enacted, FMA has seen many of our members reluctant to serve TDY. Managers struggle to find senior grade level employees willing to disrupt their family life for these assignments.

By removing these reductions, your amendment will assure TDY programs are properly staffed and DOD missions will be fulfilled. Civilian defense employees provide a vital role in our country's military. They work side by side with armed defense employees, protecting our nation. The Department's budgetary solution should not lie on the backs of its employees. FMA sincerely appreciates your efforts to ensure civilian defense employees are not encumbered by expenses while serving the public.

Thank you for your continued support of the men and women in the public sector. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA's Government Affairs Director, Greg Stanford, at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or (703) 683-8700, ext. 104.

Sincerely,



Renee Johnson
National President