

September 8, 2016

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

On behalf of managers and supervisors currently serving our nation in the federal government and whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), I am writing to urge the Senate Transportation Committee to support the passage of the Federal Aviation Administration Veteran Transition Improvement Act of 2016 (S. 2683) before the Senate adjourns for the October district work period. This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE), would extend the existing disabled veteran leave category to eligible employees within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with a disability rating of 30 percent or higher for the purposes of receiving medical care related to their service-connected condition.

S. 2683 is cosponsored by Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Jerry Moran (R-KS), who led the Senate effort to create disabled veteran leave as a new leave category for federal employees under the Wounded Warrior Federal Leave Act which was signed into law last year. The final bill that was signed into law covers approximately 85 percent of the federal workforce, but does not apply to FAA employees and other non-Title V employees. S. 2683 helps correct this oversight and provides parity with their counterparts in other federal agencies. Notably, the Senate included the text of S. 2683 as part of its FAA reauthorization, but it was not included in the final reauthorization bill.

America's disabled veterans who continue serving our nation in the FAA deserve to have access to disabled veteran leave they have rightfully earned with their sacrifices. Swift action this year is necessary so that new disabled veteran employees, who have already given so much in service to our country, do not have to choose between getting a paycheck and getting the care they need during their first year on the job. FMA is grateful for this commonsense legislation. Thank you for your work on the committee and your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA's Government Affairs Director Greg Stanford at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or (703) 683-8700.

Sincerely,



Renee Johnson
National President