

January 2, 2014

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cartwright:

On behalf of the over 200,000 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 thanks for introducing the Wage Grade Employee Parity Act (H.R. 3573), which would ensure fairness for all federal employees in the same pay locality.

Following a three year pay freeze, FMA is grateful that Congress allowed the one percent increase for most federal employees beginning in January 2014. However, every skilled, qualified, and trained wage scale blue-collar employee – including more than 174,000 at the Department of Defense alone – will not receive even this modest increase, effectively extending their pay freeze.

Whether they are on the General Schedule or Wage Grade employees, the men and women of the federal workforce are dedicated to their fellow Americans and their communities. As you know, this summer several federal departments and agencies were forced to furlough members of the workforce due to sequester financial restraints. As a result, federal employees strained not only to meet congressionally-mandated missions and goals on limited budgets, but also to meet personal financial demands. Like their private sector counterparts, federal employees face growing fiduciary demands, such as increased health care costs, and often support their entire families on a single paycheck. This small increase in pay is a modest means of gratitude to all federal workers who serve their country.

FMA appreciates your efforts to provide fairness for all federal employees and ensure that the percentage increase in rates of basic pay for Wage Grade employees is equivalent to the percentage increase received by their General Schedule counterparts in the same pay locality. H.R. 3573 is reasonable and equitable, and we will support your ongoing efforts to get it signed into law.

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.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President