

MEMORANDUM

To: FMA Regional Directors

From: Greg Stanford and Katie Maddocks

Re: FMA Government Affairs Update for Summer 2014

Date: August 20, 2014

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a brief narrative and status of ongoing government relations and public affairs activities the FMA government relations department worked on in the summer of 2014 on behalf of FMA members. Please share this information with chapter presidents, legislative action team leaders and others in your region.

FMA Testifies at Congressional Hearing

On Tuesday, July 15th, Federal Managers Association (FMA) National President Patricia Niehaus presented testimony before the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and the Census on the viability of the General Schedule (GS). FMA testified at the invitation of Chairman Blake Farenthold (R-TX), whose district includes Corpus Christi Army Depot (Chapter 125).

Testifying before Congress positions FMA as a thought leader and an instrumental, trusted resource and voice among decision-makers. President Niehaus presented alongside Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director Katherine Archuleta, former OPM Director Donald Devine, Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues Robert Goldenkoff, and AFGE President J. David Cox. FMA's written testimony covered the need for reform or replacement of the GS, as well as FMA priorities including extension of the probationary period, managerial training, and telework. You can read FMA's full written testimony in the Legislative Action Center at www.fedmanagers.org.

Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2014 (H.R. 5229)

On Tuesday, July 29, Representative Stephen Lynch (D-MA) introduced the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act (H.R. 5229), addressing one of our top legislative priorities for 2014. The legislation would provide 104 hours of sick leave up front to first year federal employees who qualify under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The bill is bipartisan, cosponsored by Representatives Blake Farenthold (R-TX), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC). This issue was originally brought to FMA by our members at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina.

FMA National President Patricia Niehaus released a statement and Government Affairs Representative Katie Maddocks discussed this development on the radio.

Since the bill was introduced, we met with committee staff in the Senate, with a goal of getting a companion bill introduced in that chamber. We have several meetings scheduled with offices to ask for additional cosponsors of the legislation.

FMA Supports Legislation to for Combat Zone Tax Parity

FMA voiced support for the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act (H.R. 4621), introduced by Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA) one of the Association's 2014 issue briefs. Currently, military personnel and federal contractors serving in combat zones such as Afghanistan receive tax exemptions on their base pay. The Federal Managers Association (FMA) has long supported creating parity for federal employees the groups. Federal employees volunteer to serve alongside military and contract personnel, putting their lives at risk; they should receive the same benefits. H.R. 4621 was has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. To read the full letter from FMA supporting the bill, please visit the Legislative Action Center of the FMA website, www.fedmanagers.org. For more information on H.R. 4621, please visit: <http://congress.gov>.

FMA Luncheon at Patuxent River Naval Air Station

In June, FMA Executive Director Todd Wells, Government Affairs Representative Katie Maddocks, and Membership Coordinator Katie Redmond joined members of the FMA Executive Board for a luncheon with managers stationed at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland to discuss the challenges federal managers face and what the Association can do to assist. FMA National President Patricia Niehaus, National Vice President George Smith, and National Secretary Dora Quinlan presented at the luncheon, featuring Rear Admiral Paul Sohl. FMA is continuing discussions with several managers there, with a goal of establishing a chapter at the air station.

National President Visits to Washington, D.C.

President Niehaus had several productive visits to Washington, D.C., in June and July. The government affairs department assisted FMA Executive Director Todd Wells in preparing her itinerary, which included a variety of meetings with both the legislative and administrative branches:

- **U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM)** -- Met with OPM Director Katherine Archuleta and discussed several of FMA's legislative priorities, including the disabled veteran federal leave initiative, managerial training and extension of the probationary period, as well as civil service reform and employee engagement.
- **Office of Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)** – Held a productive meeting to discuss specifics on FMA's disabled veteran leave initiative with Rep. Lynch's staff as well as staff from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.
- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Majority)** – Discussed the status of FEHB modernization legislation, as well as a variety of FMA's 2014 legislative priorities, including the disabled veteran federal leave initiative, succession planning, FECA reform, an extension to the probationary period, and a GPO/WEP means test.
- **Office of Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)** – Discussed the GPO/WEP means test. Rep. Davis is the lead sponsor of legislation providing a full repeal of GPO/WEP
- **Government Accountability Office** – Discussed issues related to poor performers in the federal government. Topics included common mistakes agencies make in addressing poor performance,

senior leadership support of frontline managers, and the effect of receiving an unacceptable performance rating on an employee's future federal job prospects.

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** –Meeting with Corey Coleman, Chief Component Human Capital Officer to discuss ways FMA can partner with FEMA.
- **National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations** -- The National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations met on July 23 and heard presentations from members of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Forest Service on employee engagement between management and employees. The next Council meeting will be held on September 17. For more information on the Council, please visit: www.lmrcouncil.gov.

Fundraisers

Thanks to generous contributions to the FMA PAC, the government affairs department attended several fundraisers in June and July. They included: Sen. Kay Hagan (D-NC), Gwen Graham Candidate in Florida, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL), Rep. Frank Lobiondo (R-NJ), Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH), and Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC).

As always, if you hear about a fundraiser in your local area and would like to attend, please contact Katie Maddocks at 703-683-8700 or kmaddocks@fedmanagers.org.