

MEMORANDUM

To: FMA Regional Directors

From: Greg Stanford and Katie Maddocks

Re: FMA Government Affairs Update for February 2015

Date: March 6, 2015

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 February 2015 on behalf of FMA members. Please share this information with chapter presidents, legislative action team leaders and others in your region.

FMA letter urging action on Department of Homeland Security Funding

Federal Managers Association (FMA) National President Patricia Niehaus called upon all Members of Congress to put aside partisan politics in order to not only protect tens of thousands of jobs, but also for national security. She sent a letter urging Congress to approve appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security through the end of fiscal year 2015.

FMA supports House bill repealing changes to FERS

On February 5, Representative Donna Edwards (D-MD) reintroduced the Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act (H.R. 785), calling for the repeal of the Revised Annuity Employee (RAE) and Further Revised Annuity Employee (FRAE) classifications of FERS. FMA National President Patricia Niehaus issued a letter of support to Rep. Edwards, commenting on the need to ensure federal employees receive the benefits they deserve and earn.

FMA denounces attrition bill

Representative Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) recently introduced the Federal Workforce Reduction Through Attrition Act (H.R. 417). The bill calls to limit the growth of government by replacing one worker for every three that leave. FMA National President Patricia Niehaus opposed the bill in a letter, commenting on how the legislation would create a federal workforce incapable of meeting congressionally-mandated missions and goals.

FMA action letter on REDUCE Act

Representative Ken Calvert (R-CA) recently introduced H.R. 340, the Rebalance for an Effective Defense Uniformed and Civilian Employees (REDUCE) Act. The bill calls for a 15 percent reduction to Department of Defense (DOD) civilian employees between fiscal years 2022 and 2026. The FMA government affairs

office drafted an action letter for all FMA members who work for DOD to use to oppose this drastic cut to the civilian workforce.

FMA action letter on Wounded Warrior Federal Leave Act

One of the first acts of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in the 114th Congress was to unanimously support FMA's initiative, the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act (H.R. 313). The FMA government affairs office drafted an action letter for all FMA members to contact Congress in support of H.R. 313.

GMC Hill Day

FMA, along with the Senior Executives Association, Professional Managers Association, National Council of Social Security Managers Association, and the FAA Managers Association, comprise the Government Managers Coalition (GMC). The GMC had a hill day on February 26, discussing issues with key offices in both the House and the Senate. The primary topics of discussion were supervisory training and extending the probationary period. We met with:

- Office of Senator Jim Lankford (R-OK), Chairman, Federal Management Subcommittee
- Office of Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
- Office of Representative Mike Tuner (R-OH)
- Office of Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Ranking Member, Federal Management Subcommittee
- Office of Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), Chairman, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
- Office of Representative Ron DeSantis (R-FL)
- Office of Representative Tom Cole (R-OK)
- Office of Representative Peter Welch (D-VT)

Kilmer Lunch

Greg attended a lunch for Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA). Representative Kilmer is leading the fight against the cuts the Department of Defense enacted to temporary duty assignment (TDY) per diems. They also discussed a wide variety of other issues affecting federal employees.

Additional meetings

The FMA government affairs office attended a meet and greet for Representative Brenda Lawrence (D-MI). We also met with the offices of Representative Blake Farenthold (R-TX), Representative Mike Turner (R-OH), Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA), Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), and Representative Randy Forbes (R-VA), to discuss the Wounded Warrior Federal Leave Act, cuts to DOD TDY per diems, and other FMA priorities.

Legislative Update

Katie joined FMA Chapter 11 via phone to provide a brief legislative update at their chapter meeting. The FMA government affairs staff is happy to participate in chapter meetings and provide similar updates.

Radio

On February 6, Greg and Todd appeared on *FedTalk* on Federal News Radio to discuss FMA's 77th annual National Convention, as well as legislative issues FMA is working on.

On February 25, Greg and Katie appeared on *Your Turn with Mike Causey*, to discuss a host of issues affecting federal managers. They discussed funding for the Department of Homeland Security, federal pay, and several pieces of legislation introduced recently in the U.S. House of Representatives, including federal employee pension contributions and attrition bills.