

MEMORANDUM

To: FMA Regional Directors

From: Greg Stanford and Katie Maddocks

Re: FMA Government Affairs Update for January 2015

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

Wounded Warrior Legislation Passes House Committee with Unanimous Consent

On Tuesday, January 27, members unanimously voted in favor of the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act, H.R. 313. The Federal Managers Association (FMA) worked closely with bill sponsor Representative Stephen Lynch (D-MA) on the legislation, which would provide 104 hours of sick leave to first year federal employees who qualify under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as thirty percent or more disabled. The issue was first raised by FMA Chapter 21 Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station.

In a letter of support for H.R. 313, FMA National President Patricia Niehaus commented, "This legislation will provide unencumbered leave to brave men and women who made tremendous sacrifices while in the military, who then continue to serve their country within federal departments and agencies. The federal government should be a model employer, and by providing this much needed benefit, it strives toward this goal." Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) introduced a Senate version of the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act, S. 242, on January 22. For more information on H.R. 313/S. 242, please visit: <http://congress.gov>. To read the full letter of support from FMA, please visit FMA's Legislative Action Center at FMA website, www.fedmanagers.org.

Wounded Warrior Legislation Reintroduced in the U.S. Senate

On January 22, Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) reintroduced the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act (S. 242). They introduced identical legislation in December 2014, before the 113th Congress ended. Combined with the unanimous support of H.R. 313 in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, this FMA initiative and legislative priority has significant momentum.

Katie met with staff from Sen. Kelly Ayotte's (R-NH) office to discuss her potential support of S. 242. We will continue to meet with other Senate offices to build additional support for this common sense legislation.

FMA Supports Legislation Providing a 3.8% pay raise to all federal employees

Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) introduced the Federal Adjustment of Income Rates Act (H.R. 304), which would increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.8 percent for 2016. Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) introduced a companion bill (S. 164) in the Senate. Connolly and Schatz introduced similar legislation in the 113th Congress, calling for an increase of 3.3%.

FMA National President Patricia Niehaus sent a letter of support for this bill, stating “This legislation addresses the inequity federal employees faced over three years due to the federal pay freeze as well as the minimal one percent pay raise received in 2014 and at the beginning of this year. The call for a modest pay raise better reflects a fair method of calculating the pay structure of federal employees.” FMA also joined the other members of the Federal-Postal Coalition on a joint letter of support.

2015 Issue Briefs

FMA 2015 Draft Issue Briefs were sent to Chapter Presidents, LAT Leaders, Conference Chairs, Members-at-Large, and Retirees on January 7, and the government affairs staff hosted two open conference calls on January 22 to discuss them. The comment period officially closed on January 30. Thanks to all for their feedback throughout the process. Issue Briefs will be made available for FMA’s *Day on the Hill* on Wednesday, March 11.

Briefing with Office of Personnel Management Director Katherine Archuleta

Greg attended a briefing by Office of Personnel Management Director Katherine Archuleta on the roll-out of OPM’s new Recruitment, Engagement, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Initiative. The briefing provided an overview of OPM’s efforts to address ongoing challenges in engagement, leadership, and hiring.

Government Managers Coalition meets with OPM

Katie and FMA Executive Director Todd Wells represented FMA when the Government Managers Coalition met with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to discuss the retirement backlog. OPM stated at this time 84% of applications are completed within 60 days. The remaining 16% is usually do to outstanding circumstances. OPM noted they need to ensure agencies are fully aware what if needed to ensure an application is complete, and communication between OPM and agencies needs to be improved.

Additional meetings

The FMA government affairs office met with Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI), staff from the office of Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI), the Oversight and Government Reform Committee Minority staff, among others, to discuss the Wounded Warrior Federal Leave Act and other FMA priorities.