

February 13, 2019

The Honorable Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

On behalf of the managers and supervisors serving our nation in the federal government and whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), we extend our strongest endorsement of your legislation, the First Responder Fair Return for Employees on Their Initial Retirement Earned (First Responder Fair RETIRE) Act of 2019. This important legislation would provide fairness to the brave federal employees who get injured while working their demanding 6c jobs.

Employees in 6c occupations, such as federal law enforcement officers and firefighters, have a mandatory retirement age and pay an extra portion toward their retirement. It is unacceptable that the benefits they pay into the early retirement system are eliminated if they are injured on the job and unable to fulfill the mandatory years of service. Your legislation corrects this and ensures these selfless federal employees receive the benefits they have rightfully earned by answering the call of duty.

We strongly supported your legislation in the 115th Congress that would have addressed this issue, and we note that similar legislation (H.R. 3303) passed the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee by voice vote in the 115th Congress, as well.

FMA sincerely appreciates your continued leadership and effort on this issue, and the association looks forward to working with you to see this commonsense legislation passed and signed into law. 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