

April 2, 2019

The Honorable Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of the 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 strongest endorsement for the Protecting Employees' Security Clearances Act of 2019 (S. 464). Your commonsense and reasonable bill would give much peace of mind to employees with security clearances who may be affected in the event of another ill-advised government shutdown.

As you clearly know, many federal employees and contractors require security clearances due to the sensitive nature of their jobs. They are subject to financial background checks, and missing payments and other outstanding debts may create delays in obtaining or renewing their security clearances. This issue was raised frequently during the most recent partial government shutdown earlier this year. Your bill would give a measure of relief to employees with security clearances, and would mitigate the already damaging costs in the wake of any future shutdowns.

It is unconscionable that employees should be concerned with potentially losing their security clearances due to issues completely beyond their control. S. 464 would benefit all of these employees, and we are grateful for your leadership on this.

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,



Renee M. Johnson
National President