

July 9, 2015

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

Dear Senator Cardin:

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), I fully support the Reducing the Effects of the Cyberattack on OPM Victims Emergency Response (RECOVER) Act, as the bill calls for lifetime financial protections for those affected by the recent data breach at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Due to insufficient security, the personally identifying information (PII) of current, separated, retired, and prospective federal employees was compromised. This breach has impacted the financial security of an estimated 18 million individuals, leaving them vulnerable to identity theft, weakened credit, and potential financial difficulties for years to come.

FMA already contacted the President and OPM, as well as members of Congress, calling for lifetime fraud protection for those affected. The PII obtained through the breach can be used at any time, well beyond the 18 months of protection initially offered by OPM. FMA appreciates that your legislation recognizes this problem and provides lifetime coverage for those affected. Additionally, FMA hopes that you and other members of Congress will continue to work with OPM to persistently evaluate the situation and develop responsible strategies that not only react to this event, but also manage possible risks. As IT is ever evolving, it is imperative OPM work quickly, yet carefully, on this matter. OPM must build a secure IT infrastructure for all personnel data.

FMA is disappointed this needless breach took place. OPM has a duty to current, separated, retired, and prospective federal employees to protect their PII. This situation will not only cause Americans to reconsider employment with the federal government, but to question the abilities of OPM and its IT leadership. The federal government's greatest asset is its workforce. This security breach alienates our dedicated workers. OPM needs to safeguard its cyber security systems and fix the damage caused.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our views. 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,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President