

April 29, 2013

Dear Representative Van Hollen,

On behalf of the over 200,000 managers and supervisors in the federal government whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), I am writing to thank you for your vocal opposition to the sequester and furloughs. Furthermore I appreciate your call to address the sequester not as problems arise, but as a whole. The American people are just going to see more of the same if a balanced solution is not reached to address our country's fiscal woes.

While standalone legislation addressed the problem the Federal Aviation Administration experienced with furloughs, the majority of federal agencies and departments will likely not receive the same attention. It is unwise to only attack the overtly disruptive symptoms of sequestration. In order for the federal government to be as effective and efficient as possible, a balanced solution needs to be developed. The nation cannot rely on knee-jerk reactions.

The federal government is mortgaging its future to meet the demands of sequestration. Federal agencies have gutted expenses in order to avoid furloughs as much as possible, yet federal employees still face as much as fourteen days of unpaid leave. This equates to a twenty percent reduction of pay. Additionally, agencies and departments have severely limited replacement hiring and terminated term and contract employees, which in turn is affecting morale throughout the federal government. The most valuable asset of federal agencies is the men and women who tirelessly work to fulfill congressionally mandated missions and goals.

The American public deserves a fully functional federal workforce, a workforce that cannot be sustained while under the demands of sequestration. Again, I thank you for your efforts to call attention to the hazards of these deep, across-the-board cuts, and I urge you to continue to work to find a balanced solution. If you have any questions, please contact FMA's Director of Government Affairs, Greg Stanford, at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or at 703-683-8700, ext. 104.

Sincerely,

 A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patricia J. Niehaus', written in a cursive style.

Patricia J. Niehaus
National President