

October 29, 2013

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray,

On behalf of the over 200,000 managers and supervisors currently serving our nation in the federal government whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), I respectfully request that you reject proposals that would make substantive changes to the federal pay and pension systems as you craft a sustainable federal budget. Federal employees already struggle in their professional lives with ever shrinking budgets while greater demands are placed on federal departments and agencies to provide services to the American public. Taking steps to reverse our government's spending should not be unduly shouldered by our nation's civil servants.

During the sixteen day partial government shutdown, 600,000 federal employees were furloughed or worked without pay. This caused a delay in social security benefits; closing of veterans' affairs regional offices; and, jeopardized defense readiness. For a viable, efficient federal government, the federal workforce need to be properly funded, providing the financial needs of the men and women in public sector who serve their country. The partial shutdown created economic instability in many of these patriotic men and women's lives who are confronting rising health care costs and general living expenses, and many are responsible for supporting their families on a single paycheck.

In addition to the government shutdown, the federal workforce faces another year of the sequester. During FY13, federal employees saw drastic across-the-board cuts. This resulted in a reduction of services provided and the furloughs of thousands of workers. FMA believes it is the responsibility of Congress and the Administration to ensure the public is afforded a civil service that is efficient, effective and responsive. As you debate this challenging endeavor, please keep in mind the services that federal employees provide to the American citizens on a daily basis. Despite continually shrinking budgets and greater demands placed on federal agencies and departments, the federal workforce continues to serve the American people. Their patriotism deserves recognition, not denigration.

Federal managers and employees have already made tremendous sacrifices for the sake of the national economy. Three years of a federal pay freeze and increases to employee contributions for retirement benefits will save \$114 billion over ten years. Despite this contribution, Members of Congress introduced numerous bills calling for across-the-board cuts to personnel through attrition, and civil servants continue to face seemingly constant contempt from Congress, the press, and the American public.

The federal government's greatest assets are the men and women who devote themselves to serving the interests of the American public. As you continue to consider how best to steer this country towards prosperity, I urge you to recognize the invaluable work performed by civil servants and the damaging effects passage of further personnel, pay and benefits cuts entail. We need a top-notch, fully engaged federal workforce to effectively address the myriad challenges facing budget-strapped federal agencies and the increased demand for government services. Supporting the propagation of unbalanced cuts to federal employees' pay and benefits severely detracts from this objective.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our views. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA's Director of Government Affairs Greg Stanford at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or (703) 683-8700.

Sincerely,



Patricia Niehaus
National President