

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Donna Edwards
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Edwards:

On behalf of the over 200,000 managers and supervisors currently serving our nation in the federal government and whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), we fully extend support for your bill, H.R. 785, as it calls for the repeal of revised annuities for employees enrolled in the Federal Employment Retirement System (FERS). By ensuring those hired after December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2013 receive their full annuity, you are creating a federal workforce that recognizes its employees should earn the retirement they deserve.

When Members of Congress first called upon newly hired federal employees to contribute more to their retirement plan, it was viewed as a means to stabilize the national budget and reduce deficit spending. However, managers through the federal workforce see these reductions in benefits as a hinderance in recruitment and retention. They are seeing the brightest and best are looking towards the private sector for employment, which can afford to provide better compensation. H.R. 785 encourages human capital growth and promotes a career in public service.

Federal managers and employees understand the budgetary constraints the nation faces. However, FERS-Revised Annuity Employee and FERS-Further Revised Annuity Employee plans undermine the federal workforce and drive away competent employees. By continuing to view new members of the workforce as a means to cap federal spending, Congress will create a hollow government. H.R. 785 takes a solid step towards investing in the federal workforce that will be viable for years to come.

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,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President