

MEMORANDUM

To: FMA Regional Directors

From: Greg Stanford and Katie Maddocks

Re: FMA Government Affairs Update for October 2014

Date: November 14, 2014

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a brief narrative and status of ongoing government relations and public affairs activities the FMA government relations department worked on in October 2014 on behalf of FMA members. Please share this information with chapter presidents, legislative action team leaders and others in your region.

Efforts to prevent Department of Defense cuts to TDY

FMA undertook many efforts throughout October to try to prevent the Department of Defense (DOD) from making drastic cuts to temporary duty assignment (TDY) per diem allowances. The Association attended multiple meetings with the Office of Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA), helping him draft a bipartisan letter to DOD calling for postponement of implementation of the new rules governing long term TDY rates. Separately, FMA National President Patricia Niehaus sent a letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees expressing concern about the cuts. FMA also drafted an action letter and alerted our DOD members so they could make their voices heard on the issue on Capitol Hill.

While DOD did implement the cuts effective on November 1, 2014, FMA will join Members of Congress and other concerned stakeholders in a meeting with DOD on December 4, 2014, to discuss this issue further.

FEHBP Advisory Group and FEHBP Premium Rates Briefing

Greg and Katie represented FMA at two meetings at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regarding the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan. OPM announced the FEHBP premium rates for the 2015 plan year, as well as changes to the flexible spending account program. FMA holds a seat on the FEHBP Advisory Group, allowing managers to provide direct input to OPM regarding FEHB decisions and policies. Topics discussed the October meeting of the FEHB Advisory Group included updates on preventive care programs, self plus one implementation, 2013 FEBS results, and the open season roll out. The next meeting will be in the Spring of 2015.

FMA sends joint letter with the Government Managers Coalition to House Committee

The House Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing, titled, "Private Gym Memberships, Gift Cards, and Hair Salons: Examining the Misuse of Government-Supplied Credit Cards," on October 14 regarding misuse of government issued credit cards for small purchases, or micro purchases. FMA joined



the other management associations who make up the Government Managers Coalition (GMC) in sending a letter to the committee leadership, using this as an opportunity to advocate for the need for managerial and supervisor training, a top priority of the Association.

Flags for the Fallen Implementation

As you may be aware, OPM released the final regulations for the Civilian Service Recognition Act, also referred to as “Flags for the Fallen,” in September. In October, FMA met with representatives from the Senior Executives Association, Professional Managers Association, NARFE, the American Foreign Service Association, and others, to discuss ways to reach out to agencies and try to spread the word that this noble benefit exists. We will continue to work with Representative Richard Hanna (D-NY), the lead sponsor of the legislation in the House, to encourage participation across every department and agency in the federal government, and make sure that employees know about this benefit, which provides a United States flag to the next of kin of federal employees who die in the line of duty.

Preparing for the 114th Congress

While Congress was out of session all month, and staff and members of Congress in their home states and districts campaigning in advance of the November 4 elections, FMA conducted meetings with the offices of Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and Representative Mike Turner (R-OH), who are both frontrunners to chair the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in the 114th Congress. We discussed legislation to support and fund managerial training and extension of the probationary period.

Region 3/4 Conference

On Saturday, October 11, Katie presented a government affairs report via Skype at the 2014 joint Region 3/4 Conference, giving an update on FMA’s issues and what to expect in the coming months from Capitol Hill.