

MEMORANDUM**To: FMA Regional Directors****From: Greg Stanford and Katie Maddocks****Re: FMA Government Affairs Update for February 2016****Date: March 11, 2016**

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 February 2016 on behalf of FMA members. Please share this information with chapter presidents, legislative action team leaders and others in your region.

National Convention Keynote Speakers Updated

Federal Labor Relations Authority Chairman Carol Waller Pope will serve as keynote speaker at FMA's 78th annual National Convention on Monday, March 14. Office of Personnel Management Acting Director Beth Cobert was originally scheduled to speak, but had to regrettably cancel.

FMA Endorses a 5.3 Percent Pay Raise For Feds

In February, FMA sent a letter to Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA) endorsing his legislation, the Federal Adjustment of Income Rates Act (FAIR) Act (H.R. 4585), which calls for a 3.9 percent raise in base pay and an additional 1.4 percent boost in locality pay for fiscal year 2017. FMA also joined its colleagues within the Federal-Postal Coalition to amplify its support for the legislation.

GMC Meeting with OPM Acting Director Beth Cobert

On February 12, FMA attended a meeting with OPM Acting Director Beth Cobert along with colleagues from the Government Managers Coalition. Topics of discussion included OPM's efforts on IT modernization, the new proposed background investigations bureau, the President's management agenda, employee engagement, hiring/USAJOBS reform, administrative leave and the probationary period.

FMA Supports Cobert's Nomination as Director of OPM

Prior to Beth Cobert's confirmation hearing as Director of the Office of Personnel Management before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, FMA sent a letter to each member of the committee endorsing her nomination. Later in the month, the committee

subsequently voted favorably for her, clearing the way for the full Senate to consider her for the post.

Admin Leave Bill Passes Senate Committee

During a business meeting on February 10, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee passed the Administrative Leave Act (S. 2450), bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Charles Grassley (R-IA). FMA worked closely with Senator Tester on the legislation, which allows for commonsense reforms that define administrative leave and provide a time limit for how long it can be used.

TDY meetings

FMA Deputy Government Affairs Director Katie Maddocks attended meetings with the offices of several members of the Senate Armed Services Committee as part of FMA's ongoing effort to repeal cuts to long term TFY per diems the Department of Defense implemented in November 2014. FMA is working on this issue in conjuncture with AFGE, IFPTE, and hotel and lodging industries. FMA and these groups are pushing for a full repeal in both the FY17 appropriations and NDAA. Leadership from NAVSEA requested to the Secretary of Defense a waiver from the cuts and a select group of Senators who represent naval shipyards for a waiver as well for naval defense civilian employees. Additional meetings are expected in March, and this issue has been added to FMA's 2016 Issue Briefs.

Takai Fundraiser – Feb. 29

FMA Deputy Government Affairs Director Katie Maddocks attended a fundraiser for Representative Mark Takai (D-HI) who has been a vocal proponent of repealing the long term TDY per diem cuts at the Department of Defense. In the FY16 House NDAA, he provided an amendment to repeal cuts and is planning on doing the same for the FY17 NDAA.

FY 2017 Budget Request

On February 9, President Barack Obama released his budgetary proposal for fiscal year 2017, calling for a \$4.1 trillion budget. FMA spoke out that day, stating that while it does not fully address issues hindering the federal workforce, it takes steps in the right direction in regards to federal pay and IT hiring. The budget request includes a 1.6 percent pay raise and encourages the Congress to move forward on providing paid parental leave to federal employees. Notably, the budget request did not include several negative proposals President Obama has offered before, such as increases to pension contributions and a switch to chained CPI.



FMA on Federal News Radio

FMA Executive Director Todd Wells and Director of Government Affairs appeared on FedTALK on Federal News Radio on Friday, February 5. During the hour-long program, they discussed FMA's upcoming 78th annual National Convention, as well as FMA's legislative agenda for 2016. Wells and Stanford were joined by Bruce Stewart from the Strategy Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the Office of Personnel Management, who will participate in FMA's management training seminar on March 15.