

April 10, 2019

The Honorable Tina Smith
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

On behalf of the managers and supervisors currently serving our nation in the federal government and whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), we extend our strongest endorsement for your legislation that would protect federal employee health benefits in the event of another government shutdown. S. 971, protecting FEHBP coverage, and S. 973, protecting FEDVIP and FLTCIP coverage, are commonsense, reasonable bills that would give much peace of mind to employees.

FMA urges Congress and the administration to work together to prevent future lapses in appropriations. However, in the event of a future shutdown, feds should never have to be concerned about losing health benefits and services, including processing coverage for new dependents, due to circumstances beyond their control. S. 971 and S. 973 would give a measure of relief to feds and their families and we appreciate your leadership on this issue. We are grateful both bills have strong bipartisan, bicameral support, and will work with you to get them passed and signed into law.

Thank you for your 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,



Renee M. Johnson
National President