



## FMA Grassroots Update

November 22, 2019

Dear FMA Member,

We hope you will use this Grassroots Update to learn more about the issues FMA is working on, the responses of our national office team and leadership, and the many ways you can help. We are very excited about the work we are doing with the 116th Congress.

### **Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations**

In September, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) to fund Fiscal Year 2020 until November 21. This week Congress passed a second CR, which will run through December 20, 2019. While we still argue a CR is preferable to a shutdown, it creates budget uncertainty and hampers managers, impedes long-term planning, and results in extraordinary, unnecessary costs.

We have updated FMA's FY 2020 action letter, urging lawmakers to pass full-year appropriations, and we encourage you to send one today. Each letter will go to both of your senators. Please click on this link to access this action letter: <https://www.fedmanagers.org/Action-Letters>. As always, the letter is drafted and ready to send as-is, but it is fully editable to allow you to personalize it and insert any anecdotal information you'd like. Please take a moment to send an action letter on this issue, and urge your fellow FMA members to send one as well!

### **More Progress on FMA Issue Brief!**

Thanks to your great work and outreach to members of Congress, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 2478), which would allow FERS employees to buy back temporary time toward their retirement, is now up to 48 bipartisan cosponsors. This is almost three times what similar legislation received in the 115th Congress, so the bill is gaining traction!

If you have not done so already, please [click here](#) to send an action letter on the issue. Thank you for your support in our effort!

### **Beware of Social Security Number Scams**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently issued a warning about another

scam related to Social Security Numbers (SSN). "It's yet another attempt by con artists to frighten people into returning 'robocall' voicemails," the IRS said. In this particular scam, the caller purportedly claims to be able to suspend or cancel your SSN.

Scott Thompson at *My Federal Benefits* reports:

Scammers may mention overdue taxes in addition to threatening to cancel the person's SSN. "If taxpayers receive a call threatening to suspend their SSN for an unpaid tax bill, they should just hang up," the IRS instructed. The IRS advises taxpayers that they should not give out sensitive information over the phone unless they are positive they know the caller is legitimate. The IRS and its authorized private collection agencies will never do the following:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, iTunes gift card or wire transfer. The IRS does not use these methods for tax payments.
- Ask a taxpayer to make a payment to a person or organization other than the U.S. Treasury.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- Demand taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.

The IRS is asking taxpayers (who don't owe taxes and have no reason to think they do) to:

- Report the call to the [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration](#).
- Report the caller ID and callback number to the IRS by sending it to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). The taxpayer should write "IRS Phone Scam" in the subject line.
- Report the call to the [Federal Trade Commission](#). When reporting it, add "IRS Phone Scam" in the notes.

Taxpayers who owe tax, or think they do, should:

- View tax account information online at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to see the actual amount owed and review payment options.
- Call the number on the billing notice
- Call the IRS at 800-829-1040

More information can be found on the IRS's website here:

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/how-to-know-its-really-the-irs-calling-or-knocking-on-your-door>

### To Do List:

- [Send an action letter](#)
- [Be skeptical to avoid scam calls regarding your Social Security Number and/or back taxes](#)
- [Begin a payroll deduction contribution to FMA-PAC](#)
- Visit [www.fedmanagers.org](http://www.fedmanagers.org) to catch up on the latest news affecting federal managers!

Very truly yours,

Greg

Gregory D. Stanford  
Director of Government & Public Affairs  
Federal Managers Association  
1641 Prince Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

The Federal Managers Association, established in 1913, is the oldest and largest association representing the interests of the 200,000 executives, managers, and supervisors serving in today's federal government.