

January 13, 2021

The Honorable Gerry Connolly
2238 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Connolly:

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 support for your bill, the Equal COLA Act (H.R. 304). H.R. 304 would fix unfair and arbitrary policies that limit cost-of-living-adjustments (COLAs) for Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) retirees and seniors.

As you know, in 2021, the COLA for both Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and FERS retirees is 1.3 percent. However, in 2019, CSRS retirees received a 2.8 percent COLA, while FERS retirees received only a 2 percent boost. Under current law, FERS retirees only receive a full COLA if the difference in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is 2 percent or less (as in 2021). If the difference is between 2 percent and 3 percent – as was the case in 2019 – FERS retirees receive a 2 percent increase. If the change is 3 percent or higher, FERS participants receive 1 percentage point less than the full increase.

FMA is grateful for your continued efforts to correct this inequality by introducing H.R. 304, which would align FERS COLAs with those of CSRS and Social Security beneficiaries. We urge Congress to consider this common-sense legislation to yield more sensible COLAs for seniors in the 117th Congress.

Thank you for your continued support of our federal workforce. 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,



Craig Carter
National President