

GOVERNMENT MANAGERS COALITION

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May 10, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Government Managers Coalition (GMC), we write to you in strong support of the Comprehensive Paid Leave for Federal Employees Act (CPLFEA, H.R. 564, S. 1158).

As you may know, GMC consists of the five major federal-sector executive and management professional associations. Collectively, we represent more than 250,000 of the federal government's most dedicated executives and managers. GMC advocates for policies and practices that reflect commonly-held beliefs within the federal executive and manager community, particularly in regards to the development and implementation of policies impacting good governance and the federal workforce.

The Comprehensive Paid Leave for Federal Employees Act would provide 12 weeks of paid leave annually for federal employees dealing with a personal illness, caring for a family member suffering from an illness, or in connection with a family member returning from or going into active military service. As you know, families in our country all too often have to choose between caring for themselves or a loved one and their paycheck. This problem has been acutely felt during the pandemic, as many federal employees have fallen ill while serving on the front lines as essential healthcare workers, emergency logisticians, air traffic controllers, and experts connecting Americans to financial relief and other services; however, the problems posed by the lack of paid leave existed prior to COVID-19, and are sure to persist after the pandemic ends.

The CPLFEA, if enacted, would offer stability, assurance, and flexibility to federal employees and their families when they suffer a health setback. This is not only critical from a human capital and infrastructure perspective, but is also a commendable policy to recruit and retain the best workers and sustain a highly competent, professional civil service in the coming decades. 31% of federal employees are eligible to retire next year. While it is unlikely that all of those eligible will exercise their retirement options, it is important that the federal government take steps to address its competitiveness with other employers and offer benefits packages that can compete with the private sector.

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During his address to the Joint Session of Congress April 28, President Biden outlined key features of his American Families Plan (AFP), including a program for 12 weeks of paid leave for all Americans. Paid leave's inclusion in the AFP demonstrates that the Administration is serious about providing American families, including federal workers, with the support needed to live with and overcome unavoidable health challenges. The CPLFEA, if passed, would serve as a critical step in the right direction toward implementing the provisions included in the AFP. As such, our organizations respectfully request that you prioritize the legislation on the floor.

Thank you for your support and for your consideration.

Sincerely,



ELIZABETH BARCUS
President
FAA Managers Association



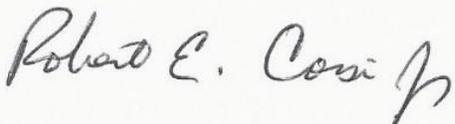
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President
Federal Managers Association



CHAD HOOPER
Executive Director
Professional Managers Association



DAVID LESCARINI
President
National Council of Social Security
Management Associations



ROBERT E. CORSI, JR.
President
Senior Executives Association

CC: Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
House Committee on Oversight and Reform