

February 8, 2023

The Honorable Gerry Connolly
2265 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. 866). H.R. 866 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, FERS retirees' COLAs are reduced under current law: When the CPI-W increase is 3 percent or greater, like the 8.7 percent in 2023, the FERS COLA is reduced by 1 percent. If the CPI-W is between 2 and 3 percent, FERS retirees see a 2 percent COLA, and when the CPI-W is less than 2 percent, the COLA is equal to the price index. Your legislation would allow FERS employees to combat inflation and maintain the value of their annuities.

FMA is grateful for your continued efforts to correct this inequality by introducing H.R. 866, which would align FERS COLAs with those of CSRS and Social Security beneficiaries. We urge Congress to consider this commonsense legislation to yield more sensible COLAs for seniors in the 118th Congress. As the bill proceeds through the legislative process, we recommend you add language to the bill allowing FERS retirees who retire before age 62 eligible for COLAs. This would make H.R. 866 even stronger and make COLAs even more fair.

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