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July 23, 2019

The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman
The Honorable Gary Peters, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Peters, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Senior Executives Association (SEA) – which represents the interests of career federal executives in the Senior Executive Service (SES), and those in Senior Level (SL), Scientific and Professional (ST), equivalent executive positions, and other senior career leaders – I write to convey our support for several pieces of legislation the committee will consider during its July 24 business meeting. **SEA encourages passage of the following bills:**

- S. 2065, Deepfake Report Act of 2019;
- S. 2183, a bill to require GAO to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives;
- S. 2177, Taxpayers Right-to-Know Act;
- S. 2169, to amend section 3116 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the applicability of the appointment limitations for students appointed under the expedited hiring authority for post-secondary students;
- H.R. 2590, OHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2019

SEA **strongly opposes one piece of legislation** being considered by the committee, the Stop Improper Federal Bonuses Act (S. 2119). While this iteration of the bill is an improvement over past versions, the imposition of a blanket 5-year ban on eligibility for performance awards by employees who have been the subject of an ‘adverse finding’ resulting in a suspension of more than 14 days or could result in imprisonment for over 1 year fails to adequately calibrate proportionality of a punishment based on an employee’s conduct. If more robust attention for the performance awards granted by agencies to employees is Congress’ goal, vigorous oversight of the performance management practices of agencies will do more to prevent potentially unwarranted awards from being granted to employees. Prevention is a more cost effective, and less legally tenuous, strategy than recovery.

I commend the committee for continuing to bring forward bipartisan proposals that will advance our mutually-held objectives of a more effective and efficient government. Please contact SEA Executive Director Jason Briefel (Jason.Briefel@seniorexecs.org) if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Bill Valdez
President
Senior Executives Association