



The voice of career federal executives since 1980

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July 9, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Thornberry:

On behalf of the Senior Executives Association (SEA) – which represents the interests of career federal executives in the Senior Executive Service (SES), those in Senior Level (SL), Scientific and Professional (ST) and equivalent positions and other senior career federal leaders – I write to **encourage support for Representative Maloney’s Federal Employee Paid Leave amendment (#363)** to the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which the House will be considering this week.

As the largest employer in the nation, the federal government should be a model for responsible and pro-employee policies. Providing paid leave for those growing their families or experiencing medical distress sends the message that the government cares about their employees and their wellbeing. More importantly, it better enables the government to compete for talent in a competitive labor market and strong economy.

The workforce is not at its most efficient or effective when employees are forced to work while undergoing hardship in their home life. This legislation grants those workers necessary relief. This policy also benefits the government as an employer by making federal employment more attractive for those searching for a new career, particularly when large private sector employers already offer generous paid leave packages.

The Federal Employee Paid Leave Act (H.R. 1534) has already garnered bipartisan support in the House. Both Republicans and Democrats should agree that federal employees ought not be forced to choose between building or assisting their family and receiving a paycheck.

Public servants dedicate their lives to serving the American people, the least the government can do is assist them during their time of need. SEA encourages members to support inclusion

of the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act by supporting Rep. Maloney's Amendment #363 to the FY2020 NDAA.

We encourage the full House to pass this measure expeditiously. Please have your staff contact SEA Executive Director Jason Briefel (Jason.Briefel@seniorexecs.org); 202-971-3300) for further inquiries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Valdez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Valdez
President
Senior Executives Association