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Senior Executives Association
Young Government Leaders

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April 14, 2009

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
SD-413 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 629 - Reemployment of Federal Annuitants

Dear Senator Collins,

The Coalition for Effective Change (CEC) is a non-partisan alliance of associations representing current and retired federal managers, executives, and professionals. CEC provides a channel for these public employees to contribute to the success of improving government. We write today regarding an issue critical to the federal workforce and our member groups – the ability to reemploy federal annuitants.

The CEC supports a change in the law that would accommodate an agency's need to temporarily employ experienced staff by easing the restrictions on the reemployment of federal annuitants – retirees to help ensure an agency's mission is achieved during staffing shortfalls, unforeseen critical demands on operational needs, or to otherwise assist an agency in the accomplishment of its mission. CEC supports providing agencies more flexibility in managing the hours and length of an annuitant's reemployment for those temporarily returning to public service.

Currently, federal employees who desire to continue serving the Nation after retirement are penalized for returning to public service. This penalty comes in the form of a pay reduction to offset their federal retirement annuity. The current policy fails to offer an incentive to capitalize on the number of federal employees who leave agencies taking with them their years of valuable experience.

In previous sessions, Congress introduced legislation to address the needs of federal agencies to have the flexibility to hire the most qualified workers. CEC supports your efforts to reintroduce such legislation to permit federal agencies to reemploy retired federal employees on a limited basis, without forcing the employee to take a reduction in salary corresponding to their retirement annuity.

This legislation is needed to provide flexibility to federal agencies. The failure to provide this flexibility will likely result in higher costs since the needed services will most likely be procured from more expensive contractors.

CEC wishes to offer its collective insight and experience on the benefits of reemployed annuitants to federal agencies should that be helpful to you in ensuring the passage of this legislation. Thank you for your continuing commitment to the federal workforce.

Sincerely,

Rosslyn S. Kleeman
Chair

CC: The Honorable Herb Kohl
The Honorable George Voinovich