

Legislative Action Alerts

By John Priolo

Three of the objectives of the Federal Managers Association, as found in the National Bylaws, are:

To identify key governmental policy concerns/trends and provide a voice of advocacy for our members;

To promote, support and defend legislation clearly beneficial to the membership and to the nation;

To vigorously oppose legislation clearly detrimental to the welfare of the membership and the nation's security.

In order to meet these objectives members are occasionally asked to contact members of Congress to inform them of FMA's position on an issue. This brings up a potential conflict as Title 18, Part 1, Chapter 93 of the Code of Federal Regulations (18CFR93) forbids use of any money appropriated by any enactment of Congress to influence in any manner any member of Congress. In other words, while there are provisions for communicating with Congress through proper official channels, you cannot use government equipment such as a Fax machine, a computer or a telephone to lobby a member of Congress.

So how can we meet the FMA objectives noted above while remaining in compliance with the anti-lobbying prohibition of 18CFR93? Chapter 19 will use the following process whenever an issue arises which requires your notification and request for action:

1. An "Action Alert" will be sent via e-mail sent to all Chapter members on the #PHNS FMA Members" global address list. You will be asked to check the Chapter Website at www.fmachapter19.org during non-working hours.
2. The Chapter Website will contain a copy of the appropriate information for your review and action.
3. You will be asked to e-mail or Fax the letter to your member of Congress using non-government equipment during non-work hours. The Chapter has a Fax for this purpose and can also provide a non-government computer for your use. In certain situations a hard copy of the letter will be provided for your signature and will be hand delivered to the appropriate congressional office.

While we, as FMA members, have a responsibility to advocate excellence in government, which often involves communicating with our elected officials, we need to do so in a responsible manner in compliance with applicable regulations and policies. The key is that as long as we use our own time, money and resources, we can lobby and discuss issues with elected officials.