



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO
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June 17, 2009

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE), and the 100,000 federal workers our union represents throughout the United States and abroad, I would like to express sincere gratitude for your issuance of an executive memorandum establishing domestic partnership benefits for federal employees.

Since benefits comprise a great deal of federal employees' compensation, we believe this change will help make tremendous strides toward ensuring fairness and equality within the federal workplace. We believe that this will make the federal government a more attractive place to work and will be a boost to employee morale throughout the federal government.

There are an estimated 30,000 federal employees who are in committed, same-sex relationships who will benefit substantially from this executive memorandum. These employees are deserving of the benefits for which they have worked hard to earn. They are also deserving of the dignity that comes with their relationships being duly recognized by their employer.

Although we are pleased to see the progress made with this executive memorandum, there remains much to be done to secure the full range of benefits that federal employees in domestic partnerships deserve. We recognize that it will likely require an act of Congress to accomplish this. In this spirit, we encourage you to express support for the bipartisan Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 2009 (H.R. 2517/S. 1102), which would give federal employees in domestic partnerships the full benefits they deserve and would codify the policy into law so that it would not run the risk of being overturned with the stroke of a pen under a future administration.

Thank you again for your support of federal employees in domestic partnerships. We look forward to continue working with your Administration over the coming years as we seek to enhance government service to the American people while concurrently respecting the needs of the federal workforce.

Sincerely,

Richard N. Brown
National President

RICHARD N. BROWN
National President

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National
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