



## PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

*An Association for Federal Managers and Management Officials*

P.O. Box 77235 • Washington, D.C. • 20013 • 202-874-0126 • [www.promanager.org](http://www.promanager.org)

June 26, 2020

Chairperson Chuck Grassley  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Ron Wyden  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairperson Richard Neal  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Kevin Brady  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairpersons and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the Professional Managers Association I write today to inform your Committees of concerns from our members across the country as IRS offices begin to restore operations. Specifically, I write to share the concerns that some office security and support personnel, including members of the Federal Protective Service (FPS) and contracted security officers, have failed to wear the adequate personnel protective equipment (PPE) to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our IRS employees, and this behavior is causing concern among employees.

As the IRS begins to reopen more offices around the country to meet taxpayer needs, PMA has been encouraged by the IRS leadership's focus on ensuring employees have the necessary PPE when returning to work, are able to maintain physical distance where practicable, and employees who meet any element of the high-risk criteria can remain working safely at home. Returning to work amidst the ongoing coronavirus pandemic creates unquestionable anxiety for many IRS employees, nonetheless, employees have agreed to return to execute mission critical functions necessary for meeting the customer service and financial needs of the American people.

Any way the Service can mitigate the stress and concern of returning employees will only enhance their focus on those critical jobs. PMA members across the country have reported concerns that FPS personnel and contracted security officers maintaining the security of IRS offices seem to be inconsistently wearing the PPE necessary to prevent transmission of the coronavirus. For example, at some facilities, members have reported that FPS personnel have failed to wear masks when ensuring employees entering the building have the necessary credentials to be permitted on the premise.

This poses a direct threat to the health and safety of IRS workers. IRS employees should not be concerned about contracting the coronavirus while entering their offices, they should only be concerned about the mission they are entering those offices to complete.

While we have been made aware that the IRS only maintains oversight control over FPS personnel fully funded by the IRS, we have encouraged the IRS to work with the FPS, local Facility Security Committees (FSCs) and other agencies in shared facilities to ensure all guards



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are adhere to the proper PPE requirements and CDC-advised health protocols to limit transmission of the coronavirus. We are also aware that different personnel in different facilities have been advised to adhere to different guidelines - whether state, local, or federal based on their agencies' guidance. We have encouraged stakeholders in shared office spaces to work together to ensure all personnel are following the same guidelines to prevent confusion and worry among employees following different protocol. There can be no such thing as over-communication at this time. This is not the time to pass blame, but rather, work with partners to ensure the collective physical and psychological safety and wellbeing of all federal and nonfederal employees is maintained.

It is our hope that the IRS and stakeholders can address these concerns internally. However, we are also aware of supply issues which come into play when a Federal Security Committee votes to require their security personnel to utilize PPE. Often the Committee is responsible for providing these resources from existing budgets. In order to ensure adequate access to PPE and the safety of all facilities staff, we encourage Congress to assist agency security personnel in obtaining these supplies, including authorizing necessary expenditures.

PMA looks forward to working with the IRS to ensure security personnel have and utilize the necessary PPE to maintain the health and safety of all our employees and adhere to common guidance for maintaining the health of the workforce. Please contact PMA Washington Representative Natalia Castro ([ncastro@shawbransford.com](mailto:ncastro@shawbransford.com)) if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Chad Hooper  
President  
Professional Managers Association

CC: House Oversight and Government Reform Committee  
Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee