

Lea.Gary@epamail.epa.gov  
12/05/2002 12:31:49 PM

Record Type: Record

To: David C. Childs A-76comments/OMB/EOP@EOP  
cc:  
Subject: Two Suggestions

As a 27-year government IT professional may I suggest two things that would make the FAIR Act fairer:

(1) Require agencies involuntarily separating employees due to A-76 competitions to offer early retirements to long-time employees who are eligible. The recent government-wide blanket authority to do so is helpful, but a stated linkage in the A-76 policy would assuage unnecessary anxiety in those who have dedicated their professional lives to government service through times when it was not always popular and often paid less than private employment.

(2) Sponsor legislation to amend Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirement regulations to allow involuntarily separated employees with substantial federal time under CSRS to regain Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) eligibility when they do retire, as is currently the case with Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) employees who separate at any time for any reason. Currently CSRS rules deny FEHB to annuitants with any break in service in the five years immediately prior to retirement.

Sincerely,

Gary Lea  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
San Francisco, CA