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### **FEW Submits Testimony on Paid Parental Leave; Applauds Hearing**

(Washington, D.C.) Federally Employed Women (FEW) has prepared written testimony ([http://www.few.org/docs/pressreleases/few\\_testimony\\_parentalleavetest.pdf](http://www.few.org/docs/pressreleases/few_testimony_parentalleavetest.pdf)) for the House Oversight and Government Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia Subcommittee hearing tomorrow on paid parental leave. "We appreciate the Subcommittee holding this hearing and applaud Chairman Danny Davis (D-IL) for his continued efforts to help retain and attract qualified federal workers," stated Rhonda Trent, FEW's National President.

The enactment of a Paid Parental Leave bill is a top legislative priority for FEW members, and the organization firmly supports the provisions included in HR 3799, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2007. FEW's grassroots advocates have been sending letters to their legislators urging them to co-sponsor and support this measure. The legislation would provide eight weeks of paid leave for federal workers following the birth or adoption of a child.

According to FEW's testimony, this employee benefit would not only help current federal employees, but would also be a great new incentive for younger generations to work for the federal government. "We all know that over the next five years, retirements in the federal workforce will be enormous," asserted Janet Kopenhaver, FEW's Washington Representative. "Without new employees entering the federal workforce, many services that we all rely on might have to be cut back, including mail delivery, assistance with Social Security and help for our nation's most needy," Kopenhaver advised.

"FEW's members are concerned about the future federal workforce in our country and firmly believe that this added incentive could fill an ever-increasing gap in our federal workforce," Trent added.

There is an added burden in attracting new employees due to competition with the private sector which on average pays more than the federal government. Therefore, employment benefits in the federal government must be at least comparable to the private sector. More than 50 percent of companies in the United States offer some type of parental leave.

Quite simply, new parents should be with their children and be able to enjoy one of the most important moments in their lives. They deserve eight weeks of paid leave to ensure that their children receive all the needed attention and doctor's visits essential to the child's healthy start.

**-MORE-**

FEW is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1968 after Executive Order 11375 was issued that added sex discrimination to the list of prohibited discrimination in the federal government. FEW has grown into a proactive organization serving more than one million federally employed women – both in the military and civilian workforce.

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