



governmentattic.org

"Rummaging in the government's attic"

Description of document:	A copy of each General Services Administration (GSA) Views (or Views Letters), which are statements of the GSA position, thoughts and comments on specific issues or legislation being considered by Congress, 2015-2017
Requested date:	05-July-2017
Denial date:	19-July-2017
Appeal date:	31-July-2017
Released date:	07-September-2017
Posted date:	09-September-2018
Source of document:	FOIA Request U.S. General Services Administration FOIA Requester Service Center (H1F) 1800 F Street, NW, Room 7308 Washington, DC 20405-0001 Fax: 202-501-2727

The governmentattic.org web site ("the site") is noncommercial and free to the public. The site and materials made available on the site, such as this file, are for reference only. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals have made every effort to make this information as complete and as accurate as possible, however, there may be mistakes and omissions, both typographical and in content. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused, or alleged to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the information provided on the governmentattic.org web site or in this file. The public records published on the site were obtained from government agencies using proper legal channels. Each document is identified as to the source. Any concerns about the contents of the site should be directed to the agency originating the document in question. GovernmentAttic.org is not responsible for the contents of documents published on the website.



GSA Chief FOIA Officer

September 7, 2017

This letter is in response to your U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal (GSA-2017-001422) dated July 31, 2017. Previously, on July 5, 2017, you submitted a FOIA request to GSA number (GSA-2017-001275) requesting the following:

"[a] copy of each GSA Views (or Views Letters), which are statements of the GSA position, thoughts and comments on specific issues or legislation being considered by Congress. You may limit this request to Views produced during the time period Fiscal Years 2015, 2016, and 2017 to date."

On July 19, 2017, GSA replied to your FOIA request indicating that any responsive records from were being withheld in accordance with 5 U.S.C. §552 (b)(5). Specifically, that GSA withheld our comments and/or statements when receiving notices of a Congressional Bill and when the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs (OCIA) conduct their internal routing process. This information is exempt from release as it reflects our deliberative process pursuant to the 5th amendment to the FOIA.

On July 31, 2017, you appealed GSA's decision via letter. Herein below is the Agency's response to the issue raised in your appeal which stated as follow:

GSA improperly relied on Exemption 5 to withhold all documents responsive to your FOIA request.

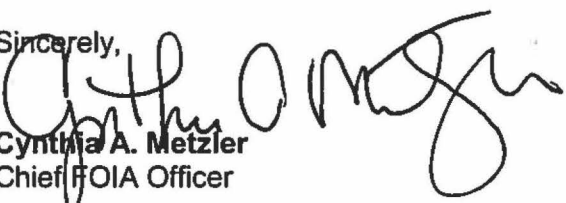
Agency response: Upon secondary review, GSA concurs and is releasing responsive documents. In processing your appeal, please be advised that GSA withheld federal employees signatures in accordance with the sixth FOIA exemption, 5 USC § 552 (b)(6). Exemption 6 protects information about individuals in "personnel...and similar files" when the disclosure of such information "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

This letter constitutes GSA's final determination regarding this matter. You have the right to seek judicial review of this determination in the United States District Court in the District in which you reside, have your principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, or where the records are located.

U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F. Street, NW, Room: 7308
Washington, DC 20405
Toll Free: (855)-675-3642
Fax: (202) 501-2727

As an alternative to litigation, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) has been created under the 2007 FOIA amendments. OGIS was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS by mail at the Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2501, College Park, MD 20740, via e-mail at ogis@nara.gov or by phone at (877) 684-6448.

Sincerely,


Cynthia A. Metzler
Chief FOIA Officer

Enclosure



The Administrator

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Mulvaney:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill H.J. RES. 37, a joint resolution to disapprove the final rule submitted by the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration relating to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), published at 81 Fed. Reg. 58562 (August 25, 2016).

The legislation leaves without force or effect this final rule to implement Executive Order 13673, Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces. The FAR final rule would have required Federal contractors to disclose findings of non-compliance with labor laws, which could have created unnecessary and burdensome processes in Federal procurement, resulting in delays, decreased competition, and increased costs for Federal Government contracts.

GSA has completed its review of H.J. RES. 37 and recommends the President sign the joint resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy O. Horne".

Timothy O. Horne
Acting Administrator



The Administrator

January 18, 2017

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill H.R. 39, the Tested Ability to Leverage Exceptional National Talent (TALENT) Act, a bill to statutorily establish the Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIF) program at GSA.

The legislation essentially codifies Presidential Executive Order 13704 by amending chapter 31 of title 5, United States Code, to formally establish the PIF program. The TALENT Act would not alter or change the current structure or functions of the program, just make them permanent in statute.

GSA has completed its review of H.R. 39 and recommends the President sign the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise T. Roth".

Denise Turner Roth
Administrator



The Administrator

May 5, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Mulvaney:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill H.R. 274, the Modernizing Government Travel Act. The legislation codifies existing practices of Federal agencies and requires GSA to prescribe regulations to provide for the reimbursement of Federal employees traveling on official business for the use of a transportation network company or an innovative mobility technology company.

The legislation amends Title 5 of the United State Code to require all agencies to report annually to GSA an analysis of the total costs of transportation service by type and total number of trips utilizing each transportation type, in addition to current reporting of travel and relocation data, by November 30 of each year. GSA is required to make the data submitted by agencies publically available upon receipt. Finally, the legislation requires GSA to submit a report of the agencies' analyses to the Office of Management and Budget and the appropriate congressional committees by January 31 of each year, as well as a description of any new Federal travel regulations promulgated or changes to existing regulations.

GSA has completed its review of H.R. 274 and recommends that the President sign the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy O. Horne".

Timothy O. Horne
Acting Administrator

1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002
www.gsa.gov



The Administrator

July 13, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill H.R. 1777, the Presidential Modernization Act of 2016.

This legislation amends the Former Presidents Act (of 1958) by authorizing a \$200,000 annual pension for each former president and a \$100,000 annual survivor benefit for each surviving spouse. The bill also sets an annual allowance of \$200,000 for support costs such as travel, staff, and office expenses subject to income limitations.

GSA has completed its review of H.R. 1777 and is able to implement all the provisions of the legislation. We have no objection to signature by the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise T. Roth".

Denise Turner Roth
Administrator



The Administrator

December 13, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill H.R. 4465, the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016.

The bill reflects much of the Administration's Civilian Property Realignment Act proposals to improve the Federal real property disposal process by establishing an independent board to make recommendations for property disposals along with other ways to reduce the costs of Federal real property holdings. The bill will streamline the process for identifying and disposing of properties to benefit the homeless. Further, the bill will provide incentives to agencies to identify properties for disposal by authorizing agencies to retain the net proceeds from these disposals, subject to appropriations.

GSA has completed its review of H.R. 4465 and recommends the President sign the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise T. Roth".

Denise Turner Roth
Administrator



The Administrator

October 4, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill H.R. 5147, the Bathrooms Accessible in Every Situation (BABIES) Act.

The legislation requires public restrooms in GSA buildings to be equipped with baby changing facilities. GSA's *Facilities Standards*, as well as GSA internal guidance, already requires baby changing facilities.

GSA has completed its review of H.R. 5147 and recommends the President sign the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise T. Roth".

Denise Turner Roth
Administrator



The Administrator

December 13, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill H.R. 6451, the Federal Property Management Reform Act of 2016.

The bill would require the U.S. Postal Service to better manage and account for real property including through improvements in identifying postal properties for collocation; and codify the Federal Real Property Council to continue to improve management of Federal real property. The bill also provides additional required duties for Federal agencies to improve their management of real property, including through requiring submittal of data on real property to the Federal Real Property Council and to the Administrator of General Services. The bill also makes some technical corrections to the "Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016."

GSA has completed its review of H.R. 6451 and recommends the President sign the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise T. Roth".

Denise Turner Roth
Administrator



The Administrator

September 30, 2015

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill S.565, the Federal Vehicle Repair Cost Savings Act of 2015.

GSA procures nearly all vehicle maintenance using commercial vendors and does not have any in-house vehicle maintenance facilities. For many of the parts mentioned in this legislation, remanufactured parts are the standard replacement parts used for repairs by commercial vendors. In fact, GSA requests remanufactured parts as they are often less expensive, in addition to being environmentally preferred.

GSA has completed its review of S. 565 and recommends signature by the President.

Sincerely,



Denise Turner Roth
Administrator

U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405
Telephone: (202) 501-0800
Fax: (202) 219-1243



December 8, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill S. 795, a bill to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees. The legislation extends Federal contractor whistleblower protections to employees of: (1) personal services contractors working on defense contracts (currently, the protections apply to employees of defense contractors, subcontractors, grantees, or subgrantees); and (2) personal services contractors or subgrantees working on Federal civilian contracts (currently, the protections apply to employees of civilian contractors, subcontractors, or grantees). The civilian contractor protections, which are currently in effect as a pilot program, are made permanent by the bill.

The bill also extends the prohibition against reimbursement of legal fees incurred in defending against reprisal claims brought by whistleblowers to defense and civilian subcontractors and personal services contractors.

GSA has completed its review of S. 795 and has no objection to the President signing the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise T. Roth".

Denise Turner Roth
Administrator



The Administrator

March 11, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill S.1172, the Edward "Ted" Kaufman and Michael Leavitt Presidential Transitions Improvements Act of 2015.

The legislation formalizes many of the current activities already undertaken by GSA in support of Presidential transitions. It also expands GSA's role within the interagency coordination and lengthens the availability of funds from 30 days after inauguration to 180 days.

GSA has completed its review of S.1172 and recommends signature by the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise T. Roth".

Denise Turner Roth
Administrator



The Administrator

May 20, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503-0001

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Your office requested the views of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on enrolled bill S.1492, Conveyance of Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska.

The legislation directs GSA, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska.

GSA has completed its review of S.1492 and has no objection to signature by the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise T. Roth".

Denise Turner Roth
Administrator



TO: Anita Decker Breckenridge, Assistant to the President and White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
FR: Denise Turner Roth, Administrator
DT: July 21, 2016
RE: Effects of the Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2016

(b) (6)

Upon further review of the Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2016 to determine how to best implement it, the General Services Administration (GSA) identified issues with regard to the scope and timing of the legislation that would negatively impact the operations of the former Presidents, as well as the individuals who work for former Presidents.

Under the existing law, GSA is authorized to provide former Presidents office space, suitably furnished and equipped, and office staff, under subsections (b) and (c) of the Former Presidents Act of 1958. GSA's authority to provide such services to the former Presidents is defined by and contained within these provisions. The Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2016 repeals subsections (b) and (c) of the 1958 Act, which would eliminate GSA's authority to provide those services listed in those subsections.

More specifically, GSA would no longer be able to provide space or equipment even on a reimbursable basis because the bill would remove the provision which gives GSA the necessary authority to provide services to these non-Federal entities. GSA would be required to remove furniture and personal property currently used by the offices and could not provide assistance with negotiating leases or extend the leases beyond their current termination dates.

In addition to the implementation challenges, because the provision allowing GSA to provide staff to the former Presidents is being repealed, the individuals currently serving in those positions would no longer have access to federal health insurance and life insurance benefits and would no longer be able to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan program.

Finally, as the bill takes effect immediately, it would not provide time for effective implementation, mitigation of potential risks, or an orderly transition.

Any changes to resolve the above issues would be advisable, result in a more successful transition, and alleviate disruption to the operations of the former Presidents and their staff.