



June 22, 2015

The Honorable Katherine Archuleta
Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Director Archuleta:

I am writing to inquire about the data breach recently announced by the Office of Personnel Management. The American Foreign Service Association is the professional association and labor union of the United States Foreign Service and represents more than 31,000 active and retired Foreign Service employees of the five agencies noted in the "cc" line below.

Since the data breach was announced, we have received a significant number of questions from both our active-duty and retired members who are concerned about the impact on their personal lives and finances. We are working diligently with the management of each of the five agencies where we have members.

Given the scope of the situation and the personal risks that our members and their families face due to the unique nature of their work when serving abroad, we are requesting from the U.S. Government:

- A. A briefing to AFSA by OPM experts as soon as possible.
- B. Lifetime credit monitoring services and liability insurance that covers the entirety of any loss attributable to the breach.
- C. Access to a human contact, not just pre-recorded messages and online content – something that is particularly important to our retirees of advanced age.
- D. Training for and/or reimbursement of costs associated with the training of federal unions' caseworkers on how to provide counsel to members related to this data breach incident.
- E. Additional information related to the impact and services available to the family members of federal employees affected by the data breach, given that family members' personal information is included in the documents involved in the breach.

As the voice of the Foreign Service, AFSA firmly believes that federal employees, not just Foreign Service members, ought to serve in an environment where they can meet their responsibilities without fear of their personal and financial information being used unlawfully or to influence them or retaliate against them or their families. Aware of the long term impact that this incident and any other incidents that the government may not yet be aware of can have on our members, their families, and our fellow federal employees, AFSA is of the belief that the 18 months of credit monitoring and \$1 million liability insurance that OPM has offered to affected employees is entirely inadequate, and therefore our request for lifetime protection.

AFSA's principal missions are to enhance the effectiveness of the Foreign Service, to protect the professional interests of its members, to ensure the maintenance of high professional standards for both career diplomats and political appointees, and to promote understanding of the critical role of the Foreign Service in promoting America's national security and economic prosperity.

We remain committed to cooperating with each foreign affairs agency to seek a fair and long term viable solution to this matter, but we urge you to ensure that all foreign affairs agencies are instructed to meet their collective bargaining obligations as related to this breach.

Should you have a question about AFSA or the Foreign Service, please contact our Director of Advocacy Javier Cuebas at (202) 944-5517 or cuebas@afsa.org.

Thank you again for your support of the men and women of the Foreign Service. I would certainly welcome an opportunity to meet with you at your convenience in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Silverman
President

cc: The Honorable John F. Kerry, Secretary, U.S. Department of State
cc: The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
cc: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
cc: The Honorable Alfonso Lenhardt, Acting Administrator, USAID
cc: The Honorable André Mendes, Interim CEO and Director, Broadcasting Board of Governors