

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EEOC LOCALS No. 216
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
AFL/CIO

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Via Facsimile 202.663.4110

Naomi Earp, Chair
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
1801 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20507

Re: Meeting to Reduce FEPA Funding

Dear Chair Earp:

As I understand it, there is a proposal that EEOC will reduce State and Local Agency funding by 2.5 Million dollars for FY 07. The vote is scheduled for April 6, 2007. EEOC must cancel the hearing so that it can invite the affected stakeholders and users of the system to attend and to provide for the record, their concerns about the impact of reducing their funding. This should occur prior to any vote.

Moreover, I am dismayed that EEOC is considering such action. What will EEOC do with the money it takes from the FEPAs? EEOC will not hire staff, and is likely to sink the money into the call center boondoggle. To strip funding from the FEPAs will continue the downward spiral of civil rights enforcement. I would not think that EEOC wants to be a contributor to that decline.

For FY 07, Congress funded EEOC at the FY06 level, which included amounts for the FEPAs. Funding for the FEPAs is set in the budget and I can find no history of EEOC reducing the amount. Thus, EEOC should fund the FEPAs at same level as FY06.

Finally, I must note that the \$2.5M EEOC proposes to strip from the FEPAs bears such striking relation to the amount that the poor performing call center costs to operate each year.

Once again, I request that the Commission meeting scheduled for April 6, 2007, be cancelled. The Commission should reschedule the meeting outside of the religious holidays. The date of reschedule should allow the affected stakeholders to attend and provide testimony for the record.

To the extent that the Commission proceeds with the April 6, 2007 meeting and votes to strip any money from the FEPAs, I urge the Commission to use the money to hire staff and purchase improved

technologies on employees' desktops that prevent the employees from drowning in the mire of work that failure to address staffing has created. Any monies stripped from the FEPAs should not be used to continue the poor performing call center.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Martin

cc: Vice-Chair Silverman
Commissioner Ishimaru
Commissioner Griffin