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COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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July 27, 2015

General Services Administration
Regulatory Secretariat (MVCB)
ATTN: Ms. Flowers
1800 F Street, NW 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20405

Subject: FAR Case 2014-025 Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces
Federal Register Vol. 80 No 102 May 28, 2015 (RIN9000—AM81)

Dear Ms. Flowers,

The Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) is an association of 190 U.S. research universities and their affiliated academic medical centers and research institutes that concerns itself with the impact of federal regulations, policies, and practices on the performance of research and other sponsored activities conducted at its member institutions. Our members receive a wide variety of federal contracts.

We appreciate the concern to create a manageable and reasonable compliance process in the subject FAR Case. Our members face ever increasing compliance requirements in Federal awards. One way to reduce the burden in this case would be implementation of the alternative approach discussed in Section IV.B. Under this approach, subcontractors would disclose labor law violations to DOL, who then would provide advice as to the subcontractors' responsibility for purposes of labor compliance.

Universities typically do not have the expertise or resources to make these determinations themselves for subcontractors at various tiers. It would be preferable to have DOL provide the evaluations and advise university contractors accordingly. Not only would this reduce burden, but it would lead to a more consistent and informed approach. For this reason we urge adoption of alternative paragraphs (c) and (d) of the proposed FAR clause 52.222—BB. While the final rule might be structured to allow contractors to make their own evaluations of subcontractor compliance or choose this alternative, our expectation is that most universities would choose the alternative approach.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Anthony DeCrappeo