Blacks In Government® (BIG) Testimony re Restoring $3000 Pension Annuity Exclusion Before the Budget Oversight Hearing: Committee Of The Whole D.C. City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Blacks In Government® (BIG) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of federal, state and municipal employees, current and retired, and with hundreds of chartered chapters all across the United States and abroad. BIG is the nation’s oldest and largest public service employee advocacy organization which seeks to represent four million government employees. Our primary mission is to advocate for racial equity and excellence in all levels of government, to eliminate practices of racism and racial discrimination, to provide educational opportunities for Blacks in government, to serve as a national respondent to the need for African Americans in public service, to organize around issues of mutual concern, and to use our collective strength to confront workplace and community issues.

On August 21, 2016, a resolution was adopted at our National Delegates Assembly in Atlantic City, New Jersey, expressing our support for the immediate restoration of the pension benefit exclusion, which covers approximately 40,000 retired federal workers, District of Columbia government employees, firefighters, police officers, teachers, seniors, and military service veterans.

We ask your endorsement of this proposed legislation to restore the “$3000 Pension Annuity Exclusion” and are testifying in support of the provisions and the need to enact this into law.

We hope that this legislation will restore recognition of civil servants’ public service and bring attention to the low salaries they are receiving now compared to the private sector.

I wish to thank those Councilmembers who have been advocates for this bill.

May 12, 2017