

Washington Watch: Legislative Update For the Week of 12 July 2010

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I. LEGISLATIVE NEWS AND ACTIVITY

Executive Director Jim Pasco had a conversation with Bruce Cohen, Majority Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, to discuss S. 1132, the "Law Enforcement Enforcement Officers' Safety Act Improvements Act" and an FOP-initiative called "National Blue Alert." The program is modeled on the Amber Alert but would focus on the distribution of details on suspects involved in wounding or killing law enforcement officers--information would be disseminated through the same mechanism as an Amber Alert, allowing for the swift capture of the suspect(s).

Executive Director Pasco he a discussion with Terry Lierman, Chief of Staff to the House Majority Leader, Representative Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD), regarding S. 1132 and an FOP-initiative called "National Blue Alert."

Last week, during the Congressional recess, Senior Legislative Liaison Tim Richardson and Legislative Liaison Irene Egan met with House staff members for the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary as well as majority staff from the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Senior Legislative Liaison Richardson and Legislative Liaison Egan met with staff in the office of the House Majority Leader to discuss potential action on S. 1132 and an FOP-initiative called "National Blue Alert."

Senior Legislative Liaison Richardson and Legislative Liaison Egan met with staff in the office of Representative Robert J. Wittman (R-VA) to discuss H.R. 673, the "Law Enforcement Officers' Equity Act" and H.R. 675, a bill that would grant Federal law enforcement officers employed by the U.S. Department of Defense statutory arrest authority.

Senior Legislative Liaison Richardson and Legislative Liaison Egan met with members of the Labor Committee for the District of Columbia Protective Services Police Department.

Senior Legislative Liaison attended a forum hosted by the House Committee on the Judiciary to discuss firearms policy with respect to gun shows.

II. THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

The House and the Senate returned to session this week.

Action in the House

The House considered and passed H.R. 1722, the "Telework Improvements Act," on a 290-131 vote. The bill would require executive agencies to establish a policy to allow employees to telework to the maximum extent possible without diminishing employee performance or agency operations.

Action in the Senate

The Senate considered and passed the conference report on H.R. 4173, the "Restoring American Financial Stability Act," on a 60-38 vote. The bill, which would overhaul the nation's financial regulatory system, now goes to the President for his signature.

The Senate continued its consideration of H.R. 5297, the "Small Business Lending Fund Act," and held several procedural votes on the measure. The legislation, which has not yet been put to a final vote, would establish the Small Business Lending Fund Program to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses.

III. UPDATE ON FOP TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

For the complete list of cosponsors for all of our top legislative priorities, or to find out if your Representative and Senators are cosponsors of specific bills, check out <http://thomas.loc.gov> .

A. Social Security Issues

(1) Support H.R. 235/S. 484, the "Social Security Fairness Act"

We currently have a total of three hundred and twenty-two (322) cosponsors on H.R. 235--more than a House majority! Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including six (6) Representatives who are no longer serving in Congress, nor the three (3) Delegates, who have limited voting rights on the floor.

We currently have thirty (30) cosponsors on S. 484. Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), who died last year. Senator Kennedy's successor, Senator Scott P. Brown (R-MA), is not currently a cosponsor of the bill.

(2) Opposing any legislation that would require the participation of public employees in Social Security

The FOP will continue to lobby against this scheme and oppose any legislation which would mandate participation in Social Security.

B. Support H.R. 413/S. 1611/S. 3194, the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act"

The "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act" has been incorporated into H.R. 4899, the "Supplemental Appropriations Act," which passed the House just before the recess!!!

This legislation is still pending in the Senate and, while it could be considered as early as next week, senior Senators on the Appropriations Committee have expressed doubts that the Senate will act on H.R. 4899 within the next two weeks.

We added one (1) cosponsor to H.R. 413, bringing our current total to two hundred and nineteen (219) cosponsors on H.R. 413--more than a House majority! Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count three (3) Representatives no longer serving in Congress, nor the three (3) Delegates, who have limited voting rights on the floor.

We currently have twenty-three (23) cosponsors on S. 1611. Please note that this total differs

slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), who died last year, or Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL), who resigned his seat last year. Senator Scott P. Brown (R-MA), who succeeded Senator Kennedy is now a cosponsor, but Senator George LeMieux (R-FL), who succeeded Senator Martinez, is not.

In addition to S. 1611, Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-NV) introduced S. 3194, which is identical to S. 1611.

C. Support H.R. 1972, the "Law Enforcement Officer's Procedural Bill of Rights Act"

We currently have (9) cosponsors on H.R. 1972.

The Senate companion bill has not yet been introduced.

D. Support H.R. 673, the "Law Enforcement Officers' Equity Act"

We currently have thirty-two (32) cosponsors on H.R. 673. Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count two (2) Representative no longer serving in Congress.

The Senate companion bill has not yet been introduced.

IV. UPDATE ON LEGISLATION AMENDING LEOSA

In May, the Senate passed S. 1132 by unanimous consent. This legislation has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary for further consideration.

Last week, National Legislative staff met with staff members for the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee regarding S. 1132. This week, they met with staff members in the office of the House Majority Leader to discuss how the bill might be considered on the House floor.

We currently have thirteen (13) cosponsors on H.R. 3752. Please note we are not including in our count two (2) Representatives who are no longer serving in Congress. The bill is similar in most respects to the Senate companion bill, S. 1132. The House bill includes language that would also clarify the status of retired military personnel that served as law enforcement officers in their respective branch of service.

V. 2010 MODEL CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE RELEASED!!!

Staff in the National Legislative Office have prepared a model questionnaire for State and local Lodges to aid them in evaluating candidates for Congress. The questions are drawn from issues being lobbied by the Grand Lodge on Capitol Hill.

It is particularly important for the State and local Lodges to endorse candidates who support our top priority items and oppose those candidates who do not. The success of the National Legislative Program depends on having an active grassroots base and on electing lawmakers who support our pro-law enforcement agenda.

The Model Questionnaire can be found on the Grand Lodge website: www.fop.net in the *Washington Watch* section and on the home page of the National Legislative Office home page (<http://www.fop.net/legislative/index.shtml>).

Contact the National Legislative Office if you have any questions.

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National Fraternal Order of Police PAC Contribution Form

Please return the form and contribution to:
National Fraternal Order of Police PAC
328 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

Name of Contributor _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Home Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail Address _____

Contribution Amount (Please circle one):
\$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 Other \$ _____

Date _____

Is contributor a member of the F.O.P.? Y N

A. If YES, please list:
F.O.P. State Lodge _____

F.O.P. Local Lodge _____

F.O.P. Membership # _____

B. If NO, please list:
F.O.P. Member's Name _____

Your Relationship to F.O.P. Member _____
(son, daughter, spouse, etc.)

Contributions or gifts to the National Fraternal Order of Police PAC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Only PERSONAL or NON CORPORATE checks may be

accepted. A contribution of \$25 is suggested, but please contribute more if you are able, and a lesser amount if you are not. Contributions to the NATL FOP PAC are strictly voluntary and FOP members have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Your contribution will be used to support candidates for federal office who support law enforcement. Federal law requires political action committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 per calendar year.