

**Washington Watch: Legislative Update  
For the Week of 19 July 2010**

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**I. LEGISLATIVE NEWS AND ACTIVITY**

Executive Director Jim Pasco met this week with White House Associate Director of Political Affairs, Nate Tameron to discuss the issue of collective bargaining and other FOP top legislative priorities. Executive Director Pasco also met with various Staff of House leadership to discuss the recent Senate action to strip the 2010 War Supplemental (H.R. 4899) of all non-germane conditions and spending. He discussed the urgent need to get collective bargaining included in another legislative vehicle that would help provide passage of this FOP priority. Legislative Affairs continues to seek a remedy for this action.

The FOP submitted letters of support to Congressional leadership this week in favor of H.R.725 – “The Tribal Law and Order Act of 2009.” The bill significantly improves Federal, State, Local and Tribal law enforcement officer safety, as well as public safety by allowing the expansion of the National Crime Information Database to tribal law enforcement officers allowing them to retrieve and share information on crimes committed in the tribal community. The bill also provides for increased and more rigorous training of tribal law enforcement by members of the Federal law enforcement community. The bill passed both the House and Senate and President Obama has announced his support for it as well.

**II. THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS**

The House and the Senate were in session this week.

*Action in the House*

This week, Democrats in Congress broke a Republican filibuster and passed legislation to extend unemployment benefits. Over 2.5 million unemployed people will get payments retroactive to the time they stopped receiving benefits. The House of Representatives voted 272-152 on Thursday to pass the bill, and the Senate passed it by a 59-39 vote on Wednesday.

*Action in the Senate*

Elena Kagan, U.S. Supreme Court nominee, won approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee this past Tuesday. The vote was 13-6, with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., joining the majority Democrats. Graham's vote ensures that Democrats will have the 60 votes necessary to overcome a potential Republican filibuster of the nomination. Kagan's final hurdle comes when the full Senate votes on her nomination in the coming weeks.

The Senate effectively rejected the House version of War Supplemental ([HR 4899](#)) in a

procedural vote late Thursday, 46-51. It then sent its slimmer version of the supplemental, originally passed in May, back to the House by unanimous consent. The House is expected to concede the Senate's stripped bill.

### **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" No longer a War Supplemental add-on***

##### ***The "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act"***

The Senate passed an emergency supplemental spending bill to fund the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, forcibly setting aside a House package that included language addressing collective bargaining and fund for additional social spending.

The Senate action late Thursday sends the stripped package back to the House for its consideration. The provisions included by the Senate are funding to support troops serving in Iraq and in Afghanistan, the funding that addresses the damage caused by several natural disasters, and funding to respond to the economic and environmental impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The bill also adds money to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund. Senator Reid has indicated his commitment to pass the bill this year with the possibility of floor time in September and addressing it during the Lame Duck session. Aggressive efforts by FOP Staff, in conjunction with Leadership and Staff are being made to incorporate this bill into moving legislation.

#### ***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](http://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.

*To remove your name from our mailing list, please send an email to [grassroots@fop.net](mailto:grassroots@fop.net) with REMOVE and the State you live in, in the Subject Line*

*Questions or Comments? E-mail us at [grassroots@fop.net](mailto:grassroots@fop.net) or call (202) 547 - 8189.*

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