



## Washington Watch: Legislative Update For the Week of 3 December 2007

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### **I. THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS**

The House reconvened on Tuesday, 4 December. The Senate, which never formally went into recess, resumed business on Monday, 3 December.

#### **Action in the House**

The House considered and passed H.R. 3690, the "U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Merger Implementation Act," by voice vote. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

The House considered and passed H.R. 3791, the Securing Adolescents from Exploitation-Online Act, on a 409-2 vote. The bill, which the FOP supported would require Internet service providers (ISPs) to report violations of child sexual exploitation and pornography laws and information on the Internet identity, like email address, website address, uniform resource locator, or other identifying information, about the suspected sex offender. The measure now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

The House considered and passed H.R. 3887, the "William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act," on a 405-2 vote. The FOP, which supports the provisions of the bill aimed at combatting human trafficking, have raised concerns that the broad language of the bill may require the Federal government to begin enforcement efforts aimed at ending prostitutions--a category of offenses which are enforcement at the State and local level.

The House considered and passed H.R. 6, the "Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007," by a vote of 235-181. The bill raises the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards which govern auto mileage from 27.5 MPG for cars and 22.2 for light trucks to 35 MPG'S by 2020. The bill also includes tax incentives for alternative energy and requires public utilities to procure 15% of their energy from alternative sources by 2020.

### **Action in the Senate**

The Senate considered and passed H.R. 3996, the "Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007," by a vote of 88-5. The bill shields 21 million taxpayers from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) for one more year. The bill now goes to the House.

The Senate failed to gain cloture or sixty (60) votes on H.R. 6, the "Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007," by a vote of 53-42.

## **II. 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. 82/S. 206, the "Social Security Fairness Act"***

In November, the Senate Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy held a hearing entitled "GPO and WEP: Policies Affecting Pensions from Work Not Covered by Social Security." One of the primary items discussed at this hearing was the repeal of S. 206. Senator Susan M. Collins, the lead Republican cosponsor of the bill, testified on the first panel.

The letter written by National President Canterbury to Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA), who chairs the Subcommittee, along with the FOP's testimony in support of S. 206, can be found on the Grand Lodge website ([www.fop.net](http://www.fop.net)).

FOP members interested in watching the hearing, or reading the testimonies of the witnesses, can do so here:

<http://www.senate.gov/~finance/sitepages/hearings.htm>

We have thirty-four (34) cosponsors on S. 206.

We added two additional cosponsors on H.R. 82, bringing our current total to three hundred twenty-eight (328) cosponsors--more than seventy percent (70%) of the House on H.R. 82. Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count Delegates Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam), Donna M. Christensen (D-VI), Luis Fortuno (D-PR), and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), who have limited voting rights on the floor. We are also not including Representatives Paul Gillmor (R-OH), Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA), or Charlie Norwood (R-GA), all of whom have died this year.

The National Legislative Office has identified eighteen (18) Members from eleven (11) States which had previously cosponsored this bill in the 109th Congress. A list of these Members has been forwarded to the National Legislative Committee, who will in turn distribute it to the State Legislative Contacts and leaders in the appropriate States.

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

This issue was discussed at the hearing mentioned above. While no legislation has been introduced with a provision that would mandate the inclusion in Social Security of public employees currently not in the system, the FOP included in its testimony to the Subcommittee our strong opposition to such a scheme.

***B. Support H.R. 980/S. 2123, the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act"***

On 17 July, the U.S. House of Representatives considered and passed H.R. 980 under a suspension of the rules on a 314-97 vote. The result of that vote, Roll Call #633, can be viewed here:

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2007/roll633.xml>

The bill was transmitted to the Senate for further action.

We currently have twenty-six (26) cosponsors on S. 2123.

The FOP has posted an Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document about the legislation in our website, which can be found here: <http://www.fop.net/legislative/issues/bargain/hr980faq.pdf>

***C. Support H.R. 688/S. 449, the "State and Local Law Enforcement Officers' Discipline, Accountability, and Due Process Act"***

We currently have thirty-five (35) cosponsors on H.R. 688. Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including Representative Jo Ann Davis (R-VA), who recently died.

We currently have five (5) cosponsors on S. 449.

**III. UPDATE ON LEGISLATION AMENDING LEOSA**

We currently have fourteen (14) cosponsors on H.R. 2726. The bill was the subject of a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security in early September. The testimony offered at that hearing by National Treasurer Tom Penozza can be found on the FOP website.

The Senate bill, S. 376, which was favorably reported by the Committee on the Judiciary in May, has nine (9) cosponsors.

The Senate Judiciary Committee also considered and favorably reported S. 2084, the "School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act." The language of S. 376 has been incorporated into Title IV of this measure.

The language in S. 376, H.R. 2726, and S. 2084 would improve certain provisions of the Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act (LEOSA), especially with respect to retired law enforcement officers. The legislation would also make clear that law enforcement officers employed by the Amtrak Police Department and the executive branch of the Federal Government who are classified as a GS-0083 meet the definition of "qualified law enforcement officer" in the LEOSA. The Senate bills would also lower the aggregate years of service needed to meet the definition of "qualified retired law enforcement officer" from fifteen (15) to ten (10) and removes confusing language related to that same definition.

#### **IV. FOP NEWS: DAY ON THE HILL 2008!!!**

The *F.O.P. Day on The Hill 2008* will begin on Monday, 25 February 2008. The National Legislative Office and the National Legislative Committee will host a short briefing on our legislative agenda at the District of Columbia Lodge #1 at 711 4th Street, NW. The briefing will take place on Monday afternoon and last approximately one hour. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Tuesday and Wednesday, 26-27 February, will be devoted to your meetings with Members from your home States and districts. **These appointments should be made in advance!!!** Event participants should make every effort to have their Representative or Senator attend the meeting along with the appropriate staff person.

#### **Accommodations for Day on the Hill Participants**

The Grand Lodge will be arranging for a room block. Additional details will be available soon.

#### **V. FOP NEWS: HOUSE PASSES H.R. 3791 SAFE ACT ; Legislation Targets Child Pornography**

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, hailed yesterday's passage of H.R. 3791, the Securing Adolescents from Exploitation-Online Act, on a 409-2 vote in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We supported this legislation because we can do a better job about coordinating efforts to combat child pornography, said Canterbury. The tools this bill provides will make it easier for law enforcement agencies to capture and prosecute those who produce or disseminate child pornography.

The legislation, introduced by Representatives Nick Lampson (D-TX) and Steve Chabot (R-OH), would strengthen, modernize and expand Federal law by requiring Internet service providers (ISPs) to report violations of child sexual exploitation and pornography laws and information on the Internet identity, like email address, website address, uniform resource locator, or other identifying information, about the

suspected sex offender. The measure also increases penalties for ISPs that fail to report child pornography they locate on their servers.

These crimes are heinous. This legislation addresses an increasing threat to children who are being prayed upon on the internet. Canterbury said.

The legislation now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

## **VI. OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

National President Chuck Canterbury and Executive Director Jim Pasco met with Mark Filip, the nominee for Deputy Attorney General at the FOP's D.C. office to discuss law enforcement issues and his confirmation hearing.

National President Canterbury and Executive Director Pasco met with Attorney General Michael Mukasey to discuss issues of interest.

Executive Director Pasco met with Grace Chung Becker, the nominee for Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division, to discuss her confirmation hearing.

Executive Director Pasco met with senior members of the House and Senate Judiciary Staff to discuss issues on human trafficking and telecommunications for law enforcement.

Senior Legislative Liaison Tim Richardson represented the FOP at a meeting of the Pension Protection Network (PPN) to discuss issues regarding the technical fix to the Pension Protection Act officers as well as other pending legislation.

Senior Legislative Liaison Richardson met with senior staff members in Senator Mitch McConnell's personal and leadership office to discuss the FOP's collective bargaining bill, H.R. 980/S. 2123.

Senior Legislative Liaison Richardson and Legislative Liaison Tiffany Waddell were in New Orleans, Louisiana, to attend a meeting of the FOP's Law Enforcement Families Readiness Initiative (LEFRI) grant.