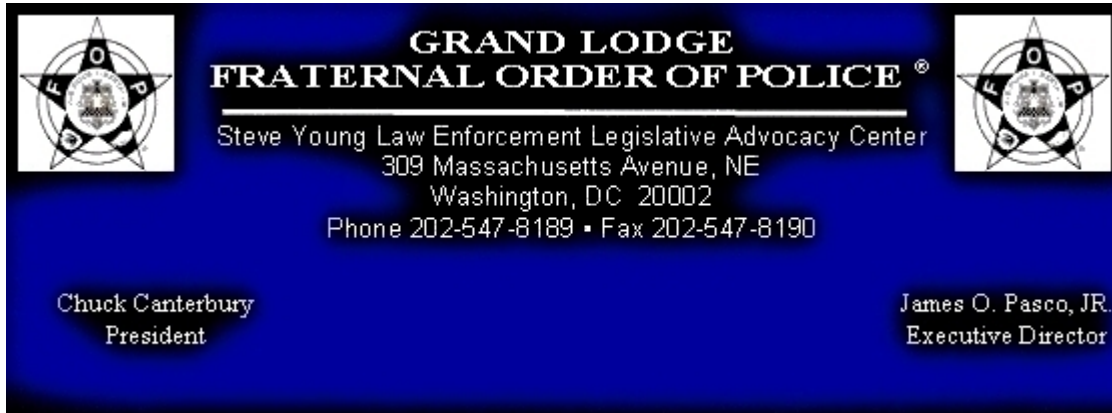


FOP Lodge 93

From: FOP Grassroots [grassroots@fop.net]
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2009 2:28 PM
To: grassroots@fop.net
Subject: Washington Watch: Legislative Update, Week of 12 October 2009



Washington Watch: Legislative Update For the Week of 12 October 2009

- I. *Legislative News and Activity*
- II. *This Week in Congress*
- III. *Update on FOP Top Legislative Priorities*
- IV. *Update on LEOSA*
- V. *Update on Health Care Reform Legislation*

I. LEGISLATIVE NEWS AND ACTIVITY

Executive Director Jim Pasco had discussions with Nate Tamarin, Associate Director of the Office of Political Affairs in the White House, regarding the FOP's concerns about S. 714, the the "National Criminal Justice Commission Act," and the S. 1789, the "Fair Sentencing Act." The latter bill, introduced on Thursday, would make changes to the Controlled Substances Act, including an amendment which would reduce the so-called disparity between sentences for the possession of crack and powder cocaine.

Executive Director Pasco spoke with Bruce Cohen, Majority Chief Counsel for the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, to discuss S. 1789.

Executive Director Pasco met with Darrell O'Connor, a staff member with Representative Robert A. Brady (D-PA), Chairman of the Committee on House Administration, to talk about the Chairman's support for law enforcement officers and other public safety officials and how existing legislation could be used to better recognize the contributions these brave men and women make on a daily basis.

Executive Director Pasco consulted with officials in the U.S. Department of Justice on pending nominations.

Senior Legislative Liaison Tim Richardson and Legislative Liaison Jon Gentile met with Representative

William D. Delahunt (D-MA) regarding S. 714. Representative Delahunt is working on drafting the companion bill to S. 714 and hosted a meeting to hear the FOP's, as well as other major law enforcement organizations', concerns about the legislation as introduced.

Senior Legislative Liaison Richardson and Legislative Liaison Gentile participated in a conference call with other major law enforcement organizations to discuss mutual concerns with S. 714 as introduced.

Legislative Liaison Gentile attended a monthly briefing for law enforcement and criminal justice organizations on a wide variety of funding and criminal justice issues.

II. THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

Both the House and Senate were in session this week.

Action in the House

The House considered and passed H.R. 3183, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending 30 September 2010, on a 307-114 vote. The measure will move to the Senate.

Action in the Senate

The Senate continued consideration of H.R. 2847, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending 30 September 2010, and for other purposes.

The Senate did not consider the conference report on H.R. 2647, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010," as expected. The report includes a provisions the FOP strongly supports which would stop the expansion of and eventually rollback the Department of Defense's National Security Personnel System (NSPS). The report also contains a provision which would expand the definition of Federal hate crimes to cover attacks based on gender, gender identity and sexual orientation. The FOP does not support this provision.

Action in Senate Committees

The Committee on Finance finished its consideration of Health Care Reform legislation. The draft bill was reported favorably and is expected to be merged with other S. 1678, the "Affordable Health Choices Act," which was drafted and approved by the Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor, and Pensions. Staff in the National Legislative Office continue to monitor the bill and its progress.

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 three hundred and six (306) cosponsors on H.R. 235, --more than a House majority! Please note that this total differs slightly from THOMAS, as we are not including in our count Delegates Madeleine Z.

Bordallo (D-Guam) and Gregorio Sablan (D-MP), who have limited voting rights on the floor.

We currently have thirty (30) cosponsors on S. 484

(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, the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act"
We currently have one hundred and sixty-three (163) cosponsors on H.R. 413.

We currently have eight (8) cosponsors on S. 1611.

C. Support H.R. 1972, the "Law Enforcement Officer's Procedural Bill of Rights Act"
We currently have two (2) cosponsors on H.R. 1972.

The Senate companion bill has not yet been introduced.

IV. UPDATE ON LEGISLATION AMENDING LEOSA

Last week, Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA) introduced H.R. 3752, the "Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act Improvements Act." The bill, which was a result of a long collaboration with the staff in the National Legislative Office, is similar in most respects to the Senate companion bill, S. 1132. The House bill includes language that would also clarify the status of Federal Reserve Police as well as retired military personnel that served as law enforcement officers in their respective branch of service. We will continue to work with Rep. Forbes' office to get this bill moved through subcommittee.

We have three (3) cosponsors on S. 1132.

V. UPDATE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATION

National President Canterbury issued the following memorandum concerning legislation to reform the nation's health care system which can be found on our website here:

http://fop.net/servlet/display/news_article?id=1823&XSL=xsl_pages%2fpublic_news_individual.xml&nocache=24989334

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