



LEGISLATIVE ALERT

The FOP-IAFF collective bargaining bill has been offered as an amendment to H.R. 4899, the "Supplemental Appropriations Act"

Yesterday morning, Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-NV) offered the text of S. 1611/S. 3194, the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act," as an amendment to H.R. 4899, the "Supplemental Appropriations Act," which provides additional funding for U.S. military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as disaster relief for areas affected by the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

For the last thirty-six hours, the staff in the National Legislative Office has been involved in intense negotiations with our allies in the Senate in an effort to ensure that the amendment will be considered. It is very likely that the opponents of the bill will object to its being offered on a spending bill--known as a "Rule 16" objection. In other words, we expect the amendment to be ruled out of order.

We want to ensure that all of our members are fully informed as this procedural maneuvering plays out, so as not to be taken in by false rumors, like the "carve out" amendment. Senator Michael B. Enzi (R-WY), the Ranking Member on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), has offered seven second degree amendments to the collective bargaining amendment. The staff in the National Legislative Office has reviewed the language from all amendments, none of which would "carve out" any particular State, office or agency. If the amendment should be considered, we will oppose each of the second degree amendments.

Again, while we expect the amendment to be challenged under the rules of the Senate, it is an excellent opportunity for FOP members to contact their Senators and ask them to support Senator Reid's amendment, S. Amdt. 4174!!

FOP members can call their Senators at their Washington offices (or through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121) and urge them to support S. Amdt. 4174!!!

REMEMBER: the bill does *not* require binding arbitration, protects existing right-to-work laws, and specifically prohibits strikes and lockouts. The legislation merely requires that States “substantially provide” for the following rights and responsibilities:

- the right to form and join a labor organization;
- the right to bargain over hours, wages, and the terms and conditions of employment; and
- the availability of an “interest impasse resolution mechanism such as fact-finding, mediation, arbitration, or comparable procedures”.

Additional talking points to use when making your case:

- In the previous Congress, this legislation, was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on a 314-97 vote.
- The House bill won a majority of votes from **BOTH** party caucuses.
- The Senate bill has strong bipartisan support.
- In the previous Congress, the Senate voted 69-29 in favor of cloture on a motion to proceed to consider the legislation (RCV #126).
- The bottom line for both public safety employers and employees is not profit for shareholders, but to best ensure the safety of the officers, to bring them home safely at the end of their shift and to deliver emergency services in the fastest and most efficient way possible.
- It is irresponsible and offensive to suggest that collective bargaining would impede or jeopardize the ability of law enforcement officers to do their jobs. Their lives are on the line everyday, agreement or no agreement and to suggest that response to a critical incident would be used as a bargaining chip is reprehensible.

You can get additional information on the bill, and can direct Senate staff to, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Grand Lodge website:

<http://www.fop.net/legislative/issues/bargain/hr413s1611faq.pdf>

If any of the Senator's staff that you speak with have additional questions about the legislation, tell them to contact Tim Richardson at in the FOP's National Legislative Office at 202-547-8189

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ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE ALERTS!!!**