



The Washington Report

The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations
Representing America's Finest

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NAPO STANDS BEHIND THE EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE (ESGR)

NAPO President Tom Nee has signed a statement of support for the ESGR. He did this during NAPO'S Annual Legal Rights and Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C. Joining him was Tom Bullock, Chief of Employer Outreach at the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. NAPO honors our country's service members and their families. Our support of ESGR assures business managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. Further, NAPO honors and endorses the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA).

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense Agency that was established in 1972. ESGR develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve personnel. Law enforcement officers make up one of the largest employer segments of the National Guardsmen and Reservists in the country.

Our President, Tom Nee has issued a challenge to all NAPO members to join with him and also pledge a statement of support to publically honor their employees who voluntarily serve their communities and our nation in the National Guard and Reserve. For more information about ESGR please contact: www.esgr.mil

HOUSE INTRODUCTION OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER BILL OF RIGHTS

On May 5, 2011, Congressman Erick Paulsen (R-MN) introduced the State and Local Law Enforcement Discipline, Accountability, and Due Process Act of 2011 (H.R.1789). This bill would give officers basic rights and due process.

In some states, law enforcement officers have fewer rights than criminals. NAPO recognizes a serious need for the implementation of standards and procedures to guide both state and local law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers during internal investigations, administrative hearings, and evaluation of citizen complaints.

NAPO has fought for the enactment of similar legislation since 1990. Currently, we are working in the Senate to secure the introduction of companion legislation and create movement.

NAPO PRESS CONFERENCE ON CAPITOL HILL: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAM



On Friday, May 18, 2011 Congressman Anthony Weiner (D-NY), Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ), Congressman Dave Reichert (R-WA), Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY), Congressman Joe Crowley (D-NY) and other members of the Law Enforcement Caucus held a press conference to endorse bipartisan House legislation that would reauthorize the COPS program.

If enacted, this legislation would put more than 19,000 police officers on our streets over the next six years. It would also authorize two new purpose areas: one to authorize a grant program to combat methamphetamine and one to meet emerging law enforcement needs. Of particular interest to NAPO members, the current law capping hiring cost, at \$75,000 would be eliminated.

This bill also restores the COPS “Troops to COPS” program which funds the hiring of former Armed Forces personnel to serve as law enforcement officers. Congressman Weiner’s bill has a Senate companion introduced by Senator Herb Kohl (D- WI).

During the press conference, NAPO President Tom Nee stated his support of the bill and highlighted its importance, “This legislation is critical for the safety of our communities and law enforcement to continue our work.”

NAPO was the only law enforcement presence at this press conference. NAPO works hard to make sure that we represent our members in Washington year round. This event is an illustration of NAPO’s premier presence on Capitol Hill and throughout our nation. NAPO will continue to fight for the funds and rights of rank-and-file.

NAPO LOBBIES CONGRESS ON FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS

NAPO is actively lobbying Capitol Hill to bring awareness to the negative impacts on Flexible Spending Arrangements (FSA) as a result of passage of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act from the 111th Congress.

Flexible Spending Arrangements are voluntarily created accounts funded by pre-tax earnings designed to cover qualified medical expenses. Prior to passage of this legislation certain municipalities allowed employees to contribute up to \$5,000 a year into their Flexible Spending Accounts. However, starting in 2013, FSA will be capped at \$2,500 a year. This is problematic, as the cost of healthcare continues to elevate, the burden to cover these costs shifts to the individual.

Law enforcement officers across the United States rely on these plans to fund expenses that are unlikely to decrease. Therefore, NAPO is committed to rectifying this injustice and increasing the limit on what one may contribute. Over the past few months NAPO has been working with Congressional staff to find a legislative avenue to address this issue.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT EXTENSION OF THE PATRIOT ACT PROVISIONS

Before the Senate broke for Memorial Day recess, they took action on legislation reauthorizing expiring provisions of the 2001 Patriot Act. This measure extends provisions that allow the government to seek orders from a special court for "anything tangible" related to a terrorism probe, obtain wiretaps on suspected terrorists and apply to a special court for surveillance orders on "lone wolf" terrorists who are not connected to any organization.

Passage of this sensitive legislation was delayed due to Senator Rand Paul's (R-KY) concerns with gun issues. Senator Paul sought to block government investigations from using parts of the Patriot Act for obtaining information on gun buyers. Many members wanted to pass a clean extension, one that was not weighted down with many amendments.

Timely passage of the Patriot Act was critical. The Senate voted in support of the legislation (72 -23) on Thursday, May 26th and the President signed the bill into law before the provisions expired. The White House supported the four-year reauthorization and cited the legislation as essential for authorities.

NAPO has expressed longstanding support for this legislation. Various provisions in the Patriot Act enable law enforcement to better protect our nation by making it easier to acquire wiretaps and intercept communications. NAPO will continue to ensure that all law enforcement has the necessary authority to protect citizens from terrorist activities.

NAPO REPRESENTS ALL OF AMERICA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA AT GROUND ZERO

The classical representation of Lady Justice in art and statues is that she is blind. However, in the original Supreme Court Chambers (1810-1859) of the United States Capitol, the depiction of Lady Justice created by Carlo Franzoni is without a blindfold.

In America, Justice is clear sighted and sees all perspectives and points of view. On the cusp of the 10th Anniversary of September 11th the man responsible for the terrorist attacks on our nation has been served justice.

On May 5, 2011, President Obama visited the Ground Zero 9/11 Memorial for a wreath laying ceremony to honor the first responders and victims' families. When the World Trade Center Twin Towers were destroyed, all of the police officers who responded and gave their lives were NAPO members. It is appropriate that the only Law Enforcement leaders invited by the President to represent the officers who gave their lives on September 11th were NAPO members including: NAPO President Tom Nee, President of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Benevolent Association Paul Nunziato and President of the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Patrick Lynch. These men represent America's finest.

NAPO continues to be the strongest unified voice for law enforcement officers in the United States.

NAPO'S 33rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

NAPO will be hosting our annual Convention July 24 – July 28, 2011 at the Westin Galleria Dallas in Dallas, Texas. Please start making your hotel and travel arrangements and let us know if you have any questions.

To book your hotel, please call 888-627-8536. Please visit www.napo.org for more information. We look forward to seeing you in Dallas this summer!

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