

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON
LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES
111TH -112TH CONGRESS

UPDATED: JANUARY 2012

112th Congress

H.R. 324 (Bob Filner, D-CA), Introduced January 19, 2011. To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide police officers, criminal investigators, and game law enforcement officers of the Department of Defense with authority to execute warrants, make arrests, and carry firearms.

CLR is a cosponsor

H.R. 327 (Bob Filner, D-CA), Introduced January 19, 2011. Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act - Amends the definition of the term "law enforcement officer" under provisions of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) to include: (1) federal employees not otherwise covered by such term whose duties include the investigation or apprehension of suspected or convicted individuals and who are authorized to carry a firearm; and (2) such employees of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) whose duties are primarily the collection of delinquent taxes and the securing of delinquent returns. This legislation would provide 6 (c) benefits to approximately 30,000 federal law enforcement officers who currently do not have them.

CLR is a cosponsor

H.R. 607 (Peter King, R-NY), Introduced February 10, 2011. "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011" - To enhance public safety by making more spectrum available to public safety agencies, to facilitate the development of a wireless public safety broadband network, to provide standards for the spectrum needs of public safety agencies, and for other purposes.

CLR is a cosponsor. CLR offered a amendment to H.R. 3116, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act that authorizes the D block spectrum for public safety use. Congresswoman Richardson's amendment was approved by unanimous consent during the full Homeland Security Committee markup on October 12, 2011.

H.R. 886 (Steve Womack, R-AR), Introduced March 2, 2011. "United States Marshals Service 225th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act" - To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

CLR is a cosponsor and supported the legislation when it passed the House on December 15, 2011 by a vote of 412-1.

H.R. 1332 (Buck McKeon, R-CA), Introduced April 1, 2011. "Social Security Fairness Act" - Restores full Social Security benefits for law enforcement officers by repealing both the "Windfall Elimination Provision" (WEP) and the "Government Pension Offset" (GPO).

CLR is a cosponsor

CLR supports fully funding the COPS and the Byrne-JAG programs.

111th Congress

Budget & Appropriations

- **H.R. 1** Support, PASSED (David Obey, D-WI) Introduced January 26, 2009. The "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." *A bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009;*
- **Recent Action:** 1/28/2009 passed by the House by a vote of 244-188. 2/10/2009 passed by the Senate by a vote of 61-37. 2/12/2009 conference report filed. 2/13/2009 conference report agreed to by both the House and Senate. **2/17/2009 signed into law by the President; became Public Law 111-005.**

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 2847** Support, PASSED (Alan B. Mollohan, D-WV) Introduced June 12, 2009. The "Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010." *A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010;*
- **Recent Action:** 6/18/2009 agreed to and passed by the House by a vote of 259-157. 6/25/2009 amended and reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee. **12/13/2009 passed as part of the Fiscal 2010 Omnibus Appropriations Act, H.R. 3288.**

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 2892** Support, PASSED (David E. Price, D-NC) Introduced June 16, 2009. The "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010." *A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal*

year ending September 30, 2010;

• **Recent Action:** 10/15/2009 conference report passed by the House by a vote of 307-114. 10/20/2009 conference report passed by the Senate by vote of 79-19. **10/28/2009 signed by the President and became Public Law 111-083.**

CLR Supported

• **H.R. 4899** Support Amendment, **PASSED** (David Obey, D-WI) Introduced March 21, 2010. The “War Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010.” *A bill to provide emergency funding for the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.* The Public Safety-Employer-Employee Cooperation Act was added as part of an amendment to this bill.

CLR Supported

• **H.R. 413** Support, (Dale Kildee, D-MI / John Duncan, R-TN) Introduced January 9, 2009. The “Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2009.” *A bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions;*

CLR Supported

Recent Action: Referred to the House Education and Labor Committee. 3/10/2010 hearing on bill held by the Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. NAPO submits testimony. Currently has the support of 226 cosponsors.

• **S. 1611** Support, (Judd Gregg, R-NH / Edward Kennedy, D-MA) Introduced August 6, 2009. The “Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2009.” *Senate companion bill to H.R. 413;*

• **Recent Action:** Referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. **4/13/2010 Majority Leader Harry Reid reintroduced the legislation as S. 3194 to bypass committee action.** Currently has the support of 26 cosponsors.

COPS Program, Department of Justice Grant Funding;

• **H.R. 1139** Support, (Anthony Weiner, D-NY) Introduced February 23, 2009. The “COPS Improvements Act of 2009.” *House companion bill to S. 167;*

• **Recent Action:** 3/25/2009 approved by the Judiciary Committee by a 17-7 vote. **4/23/2009 passed the House by a vote of 342-78.** Has the support of 45 cosponsors.

CLR Supported

• **H.R. 970** Support, (Anthony Weiner, D-NY) Introduced February 10, 2009. The “Fugitive Information Networked Database (FIND) Act of 2009.” *A bill to encourage the entry of felony warrants into the NCIC database by States and provide additional resources for extradition;*

• **Recent Action:** Referred to the House Judiciary Committee. 3/16/2009 referred to the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

CLR Supported

• **S. 3120** Support, (Alren Specter, D-PA) Introduced March 10, 2010. The “Fugitive Information Networked Database (FIND) Act of 2009.” *Senate companion bill to*

H.R. 970;

Recent Action: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Currently has the support of 2 cosponsors.

- **S. 714** Support, (Jim Webb, D-VA) Introduced March 26, 2009. The “National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009.” *A bill to establish a National Criminal Justice Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system;*

- **Recent Action:** 6/11/2009 hearing on bill held by the Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs. 1/21/2010 amended and approved by the Judiciary Committee. 5/6/2010 placed on the Senate legislative calendar. Currently has the support of 39 cosponsors.

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 3695** Support, (Christopher Murphy, D-CT/Ted Poe, R-TX) Introduced October 1, 2009. The “Help Find the Missing Act (Billy’s Law).” *A bill to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems;*

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 4104** Support, (Brad Ellsworth, D-IN) Introduced November 11, 2009. The “Emergency Responders Highway Safety Act.” *A bill to establish and carry out a highway emergency responders safety grant program;*

CLR Supported

- **S. 1789** Support, (Richard Durbin, D-IL) Introduced October 15, 2009. The “Fair Sentencing Act of 2009.” *A bill to restore fairness to Federal cocaine sentencing. Specifically, creates an 18:1 crack cocaine sentencing ratio and mandates harsher penalties for drug offenses involving aggravating factors;*

Recent Action: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. 3/15/2010 amended and approved by the Judiciary Committee. 3/17/2010 passed the Senate by unanimous consent. 7/28/2010 passed the House by voice vote and **on 8/3/2010 signed by the President to become Public Law 111-220.**

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 632** Support, (Lloyd Doggett, D-TX) Introduced January 22, 2009. The “Silver Alert Act of 2009.” *A bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Silver Alert plans throughout the United States, to authorize grants for the assistance of organizations to find missing adults;*

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 448** Support, (Joe Sestak, D-PA) Introduced January 9, 2009. The “Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2009.” *A bill to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, to establish programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse;*

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 5081** Support, (Peter King, D-NY) Introduced April 20, 2010. The “Broadband for First Responders Act of 2010.” *A bill to enhance public safety by making more spectrum available to public safety agencies, to facilitate the development of a wireless public safety broadband network, and to provide standards for the spectrum needs of public safety agencies;*

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 3752** Support, (Randy Forbes, R-VA) Introduced October 7, 2009. The “Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Improvements Act of 2009.” *House companion bill to S. 1132;*
- **Recent Action:** Referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. Currently has the support of 19 cosponsors.

CLR Supported

Health Care;

- **H.R. 847** Support, **PASSED** (Carolyn B. Maloney, D-NY) Introduced February 4, 2009. The “James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2009.” *A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to extend and improve protections and services to individuals directly impacted by the terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001;*

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 3590** Oppose, (Harry Reid, D-NV) Introduced October 13, 2009. The “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.” *A bill to reform health care. NAPO specifically opposes the 40 percent excise tax the bill would impose on high-cost insurance plans;*

Recent Action: 10/8/2009 passed by the House. 12/12/2010 passed by the Senate by a vote of 60-39. 3/21/2010 cleared for the White House. **3/23/2010 became Public Law 111-148.**

Homeland Security;

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 791** Support, (Anthony Weiner, D-NY) Introduced February 2, 2009. The “First Responder Funding Modernization Act of 2009.” *A bill to prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from limiting the amount of Urban Area Security Initiative or State Homeland Security Grant Program grant funds that may be used to pay salaries or overtime pay of law enforcement officials engaged in antiterrorism activities;*

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 3845** Monitoring, (John Conyers, D-MI) Introduced October 20, 2009. The “USA PATRIOT Amendments Act of 2009.” *A bill to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism and protect civil liberties;*

- **Recent Action:** Referred to the House Judiciary Committee, Intelligence Committee and Financial Services Committee. 11/5/2009 amended and passed by the Judiciary Committee. Currently has the support of 11 cosponsors.

CLR Supported

- **H.R. 3837** Support, (Mary Jo Kilroy, D-OH) Introduced October 15, 2009. The “Strengthening and Updating Resources and Equipment (SURE) Act of 2009.” *A bill to allow first responders to maintain the capabilities necessary to prepare and protect their communities against acts of terrorism and other emergencies;*

- **Recent Action:** Referred to the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response. 7/22/2010 placed on the Union Calendar, NO. 318. Currently has the support of 26 cosponsors.

CLR Supported

Law Enforcement Due Process & “Bill of Rights”;

• **H.R. 1972** Support, (Bart Stupak, D-MI / Erik Paulsen, R-MN) Introduced April 2, 2009. The “Law Enforcement Officer’s Procedural Bill of Rights Act.” *A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide standards and procedures to guide State and local law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers during internal investigations, interrogation of law enforcement officers, and administrative disciplinary hearings, to ensure accountability of law enforcement officers, to guarantee the due process rights of law enforcement officers, and to require States to enact law enforcement discipline, accountability, and due process laws;*

CLR Supported

• **H.R. 235** Support, (Howard Berman, D-CA) Introduced January 7, 2009. The “Social Security Fairness Act.” *House companion bill to S. 484;*

CLR Supported

• **H.R. 673** Support, (Bob Filner, D-CA) Introduced January 26, 2009. The “Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act.” *A bill to grant law enforcement officer (LEO) status to approximately 30,000 federal officers, making them eligible for federal law enforcement retirement benefits;*

CLR Supported

Public Safety Officer Survivor Assistance;

• **H.R. 4338** Support, (Charlie Melancon, D-LA) Introduced December 16, 2009. The “First Responders Support Act of 2009.” *House companion bill to S. 2885;*

CLR Supported

• **H.R. 248** Support, (Gene Green, D-TX) Introduced January 7, 2009. The “Law Enforcement Officers Flag Memorial Act.” *A bill to provide Capitol-flown flags to the families of deceased law enforcement officers;*

CLR Supports

RELEVANT CAUCUSES

Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus

The Law Enforcement Caucus is a bi-partisan working group of Members of Congress who seek an open forum to address issues affecting the law enforcement community.

CLR is a member.

Congressional Caucus on Intellectual Property Promotion and Piracy Prevention

The Congressional Caucus on Intellectual Property Promotion & Piracy Prevention supports initiatives to protect intellectual property and copyrighted works. The Caucus works to prevent internet piracy, while highlighting the economic and cultural contributions of the creative community and the harmful impact of piracy.

CLR is a member.

TOP NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Fraternal Order of Police (www.fop.net)

Works on improving the working conditions of law enforcement officials

National Sheriffs Association (www.sheriffs.org)

Dedicated to serving the Office of Sheriff and its affiliates through education, training, and information services

National Association of Police Organizations

Serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement officers through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education

MISSIONS AND GOALS FROM ORGANIZATIONS' WEBSITES

Fraternal Order of Police

The Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with more than 325,000 members in more than 2,100 lodges. We are the voice of those who dedicate their lives to protecting and serving our communities. We are committed to improving the working conditions of law enforcement officers and the safety of those we serve through education, legislation, information, community involvement, and employee representation. No one knows the dangers and the difficulties faced by today's police officers better than another officer, and no one knows police officers better than the FOP.

National Sheriffs Association

Chartered in 1940, the National Sheriffs' Association is a professional association dedicated to serving the Office of Sheriff and its affiliates through education, training, and information resources. NSA represents thousands of sheriffs, deputies and other law enforcement, public safety professionals, and concerned citizens nationwide.

Through the years, NSA has provided programs for Sheriffs, their deputies, chiefs of police, and others in the field of criminal justice to perform their jobs in the best possible manner and to better serve the people of their cities, counties or jurisdictions.

The National Sheriffs' Association headquarters is located in Alexandria, Virginia and offers training, information, and other services to sheriffs, deputies, and others throughout the nation. NSA has worked to forge cooperative relationships with local, state, and federal criminal justice professionals across the nation to network and share information about programs and projects.

NSA serves as the center of a vast network of information, filling requests for information daily and enabling criminal justice professionals to locate the information and programs they need. NSA recognizes the need to seek information from the membership, particularly the sheriff and the state sheriffs' associations, in order to meet the needs and concerns of individual members. While working on the national level, NSA has continued to seek grass-roots guidance, ever striving to work with and for its members, clients, and citizens of the nation.

NSA has through the years assisted sheriff's offices/departments and state sheriffs' associations in locating and preparing applications for state and federal grant funding. The NSA record and reputation for integrity and dependability in the conduction of such programs among government agencies is well recognized and has led to continuing opportunities to apply for grants on the national, state, and local levels as well as management of service contracts.

National Association of Police Organizations

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement officers through legislative and legal advocacy, political action and education.

Founded in 1978, NAPO is now the strongest unified voice supporting law enforcement officers in the United States. NAPO represents more than 2,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, 11,000 retired officers and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.