

MPPOA Legislative Priorities—2009

The following is a list of *Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA)* federal public policy priorities for the 111th Congress. *MPPOA* represents over 9,000 law enforcement officers throughout Minnesota and is the state's largest police officers organization. Our members are on the front line in the war against crime and work in every jurisdiction in the state. *MPPOA* is committed to supporting the law enforcement community and the dedicated officers in their continuing efforts to protect and serve the people of Minnesota. *MPPOA* members share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement and continually strive to protect and improve the safety, economic security, and working conditions for the police officers and all the citizens across the great state of Minnesota.

MPPOA supports fully authorized funding levels for all existing local law enforcement funding programs. Local police are on the front lines in the war on terror and are America's principal defense against criminals and terrorists. Adequate resources are a critical component of the federal-local law enforcement partnership that protects our families and communities. We support full authorized funding levels for all local law enforcement programs including:

- Local Law Enforcement Block Grants
- Edward Byrne JAG Grants
- Byrne Competitive Grants
- COPS Hiring Grants
- COPS Technology and Interoperability
- Drug Courts
- Mental Health Courts
- State Prison Drug Treatment
- Gun Crime and Gang Violence Reduction
- Bullet-Proof Vests
- Weed and Seed
- Methamphetamine Hot Spots
- Second Chance Act Grants
- DNA/Forensics Programs
- State Criminal Alien Assistance
- Border Prosecution Initiative
- NICS Improvement
- Secure our Schools
- Juvenile Justice Programs
- Violence Against Women Act Programs
- Justice Assistance Grants
- State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)
- Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASI)

In addition, MPPOA supports the following list of legislation in the 111th Congress:

1. Title: Public Safety Officer Family Health Benefits Act (HR 3162)

Status: Introduced by Congressman Bart Stupak (D-MI, CD-1). Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Summary: Extends federal health benefits to the spouse and/or immediate family members of the officer killed in the line of duty.

2. Title: The Social Security Fairness Act (HR. 235; S. 484)

Status: The Social Security Fairness Act was introduced in the House by Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA).

MN Co-sponsors: *Congressman Walz, Congressman Kline, Congresswoman McCollum, Congressman Peterson, Congressman Oberstar*

The Senate companion bill, S. 484, was introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

Summary: This legislation amends Title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance [OASDI]) of the Social Security Act to repeal government pension offset requirements applicable to husband's and wife's insurance benefits, widow's and widower's insurance benefits, and mother's and father's insurance benefits with respect to OASDI payments, and windfall elimination requirements with respect to computation of an individual's primary insurance amount.

3. Title: First Responders Support Act of 2009 (S 1037/HR 2441)

Status: Introduced to the Senate by [Sen Landrieu, Mary L.](#) [LA] (5/14/2009)

Introduced to the House by [Rep Melancon, Charlie](#) [LA-3] (introduced 5/14/2009)

Summary: First Responders Support Act of 2009 - Amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to: (1) increase death and disability benefits for public safety officers; and (2) expand educational benefits for dependents of public safety officers killed or disabled in the line of duty.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a tax credit for up to \$7,500 of the medical expenses paid or incurred by a public safety officer or a family member for injuries sustained while such officer was performing an official duty.

Authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to award grants for mental health services or counseling to public safety officers seriously injured in the line of duty and the family members of such officers who are killed or seriously injured in the line of duty.

4. Title: Right to Carry-Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (S 1132)

Status: Introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

Summary: A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

5. Title: Gang Abatement and Prevention Act of 2009 (S.132)

Status: Introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA); referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Summary: this bill is aimed to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, and to expand and improve gang prevention programs, among other purposes.

6. Title: First Responder Funding Modernization Act of 2009 (HR. 791)

Status: Introduced by Congressman Anthony D. Weiner (D-NY, CD-9). Referred to the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response.

Summary: Prohibits the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from limiting the amount of grant funds provided under the Urban Area Security Initiative or the State Homeland Security Grant Program that may be used to pay salaries or overtime pay of law enforcement officials engaged in antiterrorism activities. Requires DHS to treat such a proposed use of grant funds as at least as effective as all other proposed uses.

7. Title: Tracking Registered And Convicted Known (TRACK) Sex Offenders Act (HR 1750)

Status: Introduced by *Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (MN-6)* on 3/26/2009

Summary: To provide for the use of information in the National Directory of New Hires in enforcing sex offender registration laws - would allow state and local law enforcement officials to access the National Directory of New Hires in order to help locate sex offenders whose addresses are not updated with local and state authorities

8. Title: Law Enforcement Officer's Procedural Bill of Rights Act of 2009 (HR 1972)

Status: Introduced by Congressman Bart Stupak (R-MI)

MN Co-sponsor: *Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-3 CD)*

Summary: 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

9. Title: Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2009 (HR 1221, S. 490)

Status: House legislation introduced by Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX, CD-8). Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Senate companion legislation introduced by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX). Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary: Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to repeal the current windfall elimination provision (WEP) (that reduces the Social Security benefits of workers who also have pension benefits from employment not covered by Social Security) for individuals first performing non-covered service beginning one year after enactment of this Act. Establishes a new formula for the treatment of non-covered earnings in determining Social Security benefits. Applies such formula to individuals subject to the current WEP if the benefit under the new formula would be higher.