



JULY 01, 2010

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Collective Bargaining Bill - House Vote Scheduled

Updated On: Jun 30, 2010 (13:35:00) [PRINT/SAVE](#) [EMAIL](#)

June 30, 2010

Dear Affiliate Leaders:

Two weeks ago, I met with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, and Education and Labor Committee Chair George Miller and 20 of their most senior staff members, along with AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka, AFSCME President Gerald McEntee and CWA President Larry Cohen. In my 35-plus years with the IAFF, I can honestly say that I have never been to a meeting even remotely like this one, with so many high-ranking congressional leaders focused on a single issue.

The sole and explicit purpose of this meeting was to discuss our collective bargaining bill. Despite all of the labor issues at hand and, for that matter, all the diverse and pressing issues confronting our country, your IAFF was able to broker a meeting with the top elected officials in Congress, as well as top leaders from organized labor to focus on extending bargaining rights for all fire fighters and other public safety employees. It was extraordinary.

At the meeting, we discussed finding a "must pass vehicle" to which to attach our collective bargaining bill so that it has the best possible chance to pass both the House and Senate and be signed into law.

I argued strongly that we should add our public safety collective bargaining bill to the War Supplemental funding proposal for our troops in Afghanistan. It was my view, and one shared by House Leadership and our labor colleagues, that the War Supplemental may be one of the last must pass pieces of legislation in the 111th Congress.

This morning, Speaker Pelosi called to inform me our collective bargaining bill will, in fact, be added to the War Supplemental. She also indicated that the measure will be voted on tomorrow, July 1, by the full House.

Currently, House leadership is whipping their members for votes on the overall supplemental. We know that Republicans will oppose the War Supplemental en masse. So the Speaker and her team are working to cobble together enough Democratic votes to pass the measure. It is a daunting task. The IAFF is currently lobbying select Democratic members whose vote will be key to successfully passing the Supplemental. If the measure passes the House, it will be debated by the Senate on their return from the July 4 recess.

This is a significant step forward, but we still have much work to do in the Senate to ensure the bill's passage and enactment into law.

Thank you for your hard work and I will keep you updated as events unfold.

Fraternally,

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President

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