



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS AFL-CIO

*THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS*

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The International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO (I.U.P.A.) represents more than 100,000 rank and file, active duty law enforcement professionals across the nation as well as in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. It is the only AFL-CIO chartered union specifically representing public safety. Our priorities for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress are:

- **The Employer Employee Cooperation Act**, which provides for collective bargaining for public safety employees in matter affecting wages hours and working conditions. It does not allow for strikes or lockouts and does not mandate binding arbitration. In the 100<sup>th</sup> Congress, the bill passed the House of Representatives decisively and became stalled in the Senate. President-Elect Obama has pledged to sign this bill should it reach his desk.
- **Reauthorization and funding for the COPS program.** We believe that America's first line of defense against terrorist attacks has been and will be local law enforcement. Recent financial downturns have decimated staffing, training and equipment for local police and fire departments at a time when they should be strengthened.
- **Social Security Fairness Act.** This legislation repeals both the Government pension Offset and Windfall Elimination provisions of the Social Security Act. Public employees who have a pension benefit earned outside of the Social Security Act and have also qualified for Social Security because of second jobs are penalized by these provisions. The legislation has more than 350 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. It was never brought to the floor because of the "pay-go" restraints.
- **IRS Pension Fix.** In 2007, the IRS proposed changes to regulations governing payments from pension plans. Under the proposed regulations, normal retirement age for most workers would range from between age 55 to age 62. The proposed regulations raise doubt about whether a retirement plan could use years of service to determine eligibility for a full pension benefit if the retiree was under age 50. This would have threatened many law enforcement pension plans that allow officers to retire with a full pension if the officers were under the age of 50. The implementation has been delayed until January 2011.