

To the Board of Directors:

I want to thank Brad Card, Mike Canning, and all members who were in Washington, DC, this week. Not only was it a good showing of National Troopers Coalition members to commemorate Police Week, but we had a very good opportunity to push the PSOB. We had several fruitful meetings and conversations with Senator Kennedy, Reid, and others on the Hill. I also know that those who could not be in DC assisted with numerous phone calls to their respective Senators.

Final action is expected next week. They were supposed to vote on Friday, May 16th, but they canceled it.

I have included the link to the colloquy within chambers between the number of Senators who were debating this bill on May 14th. Also included are two articles recently released as well as the breakdown for the final vote for cloture on May 13th.

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<http://republican.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=FloorUpdates.Home&Date=14-May-08#e85a3aee-f397-458f-5922-d8d567a725ab>

## Democrats drop first-responder bill

WASHINGTON (AP) ♦ Senate Democrats on Thursday dropped a bill allowing all police, firefighters and other first responders to unionize after Republicans complained they didn't get enough time to offer amendments.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he did not have enough votes to force final consideration of the bill.

The two top senators on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., will try to work out an agreement before the bill comes back for consideration, Reid said.

The bill would guarantee public safety officers the right to join unions and bargain over wages, hours and conditions of employment. It also would ban them from going on strike.

**Two states, Virginia and North Carolina, prohibit public safety officers from collective bargaining. At least 20 other states don't fully protect collective bargaining rights for firefighters, police officers, corrections officers and emergency medical service workers, supporters said.**

**States could exempt towns with fewer than 5,000 people or fewer than 25 full-time employees.**

**"I know there are diverse views on this issue," Kennedy said. "We'll try to work out an orderly process and proceed."**

**On the Net:**

- **Bill is HR 980. Text: <http://thomas.loc.gov>**