



Weekly Hot News Update

February 21, 2008

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On the Hill

Here's what we're tracking this week for the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition.

Bills of Interest:

H. Res 108 - Supporting the Weed and Seed and COPS programs

- This resolution was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HR 253 - No More Tulias: Drug Law Enforcement Evidentiary Standards Improvement Act of 2007

- This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and further referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

HR 365/S 635 - Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007

- This bill was made public law on December 21, 2007. Public Law Number 110-143.

HR 405 - Family-Based Meth Treatment Access Act of 2007

- This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and to its subcommittee on Health.

HR 1069/S 144 - Mynisha's Law

- This bill was introduced in the House and Senate and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. In the House it was also referred to the Committee on Education and Labor and to its Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities.
- This bill is to provide Federal coordination and assistance in preventing gang violence.

HR 1585 - A bill to authorize appropriations for FY 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for FY 2007, and for other purposes.

- The provisions of the House and Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bills, S 1745 and HR 3093, were tabled and included in a conference report in this bill.
- Pocket vetoed by the President on December 31, 2007 and returned to the House for debate.

HR 2542 - To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to hire, train, and equip local law enforcement officials on and near the southern border of the United States.

- The bill was introduced to the House and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HR 3462 - A bill to improve the tools available to prosecute certain violent crimes.

- Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S 132 - Methamphetamine Trafficking Enforcement Act of 2007

- This bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S 231/ HR 3546 - To authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012

- This bill passed the Senate and was introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

S 267 - Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007

- This bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

- S 393 - Emergency Local Law Enforcement Byrne Assistance Act of 2007
 - This bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- S 635 - Methamphetamine Research Remediation Act
 - A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate was released for the bill on June 12th, as ordered reported by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.
 - The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works filed a report on the bill (S.Rept. 110-207) on October 26, 2007.
- S 1276 - Methamphetamine Production Prevention Act of 2007
 - This bill will establish a grant program to facilitate the creation of methamphetamine precursor electronic logbook systems.
 - This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Hearings of Interest:

There are no hearings of interest scheduled this week.

Whispers from Congress:

Congress in Recess... As Congress is adjourned for President's Day recess and Congressional staff catch-up on their work, Congressional leadership will return next week to a number of contentious issues, with partisan battles looming over wiretapping, the budget and the war in Iraq. Just days after Congress showed bipartisanship could be had in passing the massive economic stimulus package, it is back to normal on Capitol Hill these days, with political sniping even taking place at the memorial service of recently-deceased Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA). With election year politics looming, look for the partisanship to increase as the countdown to November picks up steam.

Inside the Administration

Wisconsin/Washington/Hawaii Primary Wrap-Up... Tuesday marked another string of convincing wins for Senator Barack Obama on Tuesday when he picked up his 10th win in a row over rival Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Obama also proved that he can win big in a primary state that does not have a large minority population. Before the results were in, Barack had already moved on to Texas where he spoke in front of a crowd of 20,000 in Houston and was the first to mention his 17 point victory over Sen. Clinton. After picking up Wisconsin's 74 delegates and Hawaii's 20, Sen. Obama leads Sen. Clinton 1,316 to 1,241 in the race to 2,025. In the exit polls, Obama continues to close in on Clinton's base supporters, women and seniors. Among women, Obama only lost by 3 points and among men won by 34. Without acknowledging the Wisconsin defeat, Clinton held an election night rally in Youngstown, Ohio, where she cast the election as an opportunity to address the struggles of working class families and said she represents the choice of experience. The question for now is, does Hillary still have a chance? The odds are stacked against her but only Texas and Ohio can tell.

With two more wins in Wisconsin and Washington, McCain drew closer to clinching the Republican presidential nomination. The Arizona senator had 939 delegates as the vote tally continued Tuesday. Wisconsin offered 37 delegates total and the GOP primary in Washington state, where half the convention delegates were being chosen, was awarding 19. The race that has been all but decided since Romney stepped out of the race at the CPAC convention in Washington D.C. is now just waiting for Mike Huckabee to come to his senses and do the same. Huckabee, who says he's in the race until somebody hits the 1,191 delegates, had 245 delegates before the Tuesday primaries. He claims it is not his ego, but his message that keeps him in the race. Regardless of what it is, it is not good for Republicans looking ahead to November.

Washington Influences

NNOAC Board of Delegates meets in Washington DC next week... The National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition will be holding their annual DC Board of Delegates meeting from

February 24-27 to discuss issues important to America's narcotic officers and to bring their message to Capitol Hill. Scheduled speakers for this event include Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Rep. Mark Souder (R-IA), Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE), Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA), U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey and other leaders in the law enforcement community. Held annually, the NNOAC Board of Delegates meeting allows membership from the 44 state narcotic officers associations to come together and speak about issues affecting their membership.

Around the Corner

Advocates for law enforcement and drug policy are preparing for a busy week on Capitol Hill next week when Congress resumes their work. In the Senate, the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee of Crime and Drugs is planning on holding a hearing on Wednesday, February 27 titled "Supporting the Front Line in the Fight Against Crime: Restoring Federal Funding for State and Local Law Enforcement". The hearing, chaired by Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE), will examine the recent cuts across the board to justice assistance programs by the Bush administration and Congress and what needs to be done to restore this funding to state and local law enforcement. In the House, a joint press conference/ House member and staff briefing is being planned between major law enforcement groups - including the NNOAC - and several different House Caucuses - including House Drug Policy Caucus, House Methamphetamine Caucus and House Law Enforcement Caucus - to spread the word to as many members of Congress as possible to restore the major cuts in spending - specifically to Byrne JAG - that occurred in the FY'09 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Selected News for the National Narcotics Officer's Association's Coalition

- [Methamphetamine leads list as top drug problem](#)
- [Meth, long the scourge of rural America, finally seeps into pop culture](#)
- [Illinois Meth Project Launches Large-Scale Meth Prevention Campaign](#)
- [The War on Drugs Starts Here](#)
- [Police may have caught major drug dealer](#)

The Lighter Side

Quote of the Week

"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt."

-William Shakespeare

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain."

-Maya Angelou

Prediction of the Week

With Obama sweeping Tuesday's Presidential Primaries, it's now or never for Hillary Clinton; if Hillary loses any of the remaining "big three" - Pennsylvania, Ohio or Texas - she will concede the remaining delegates to Obama and essentially hand him the nomination.

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