

House adopts Collective Bargaining Mandate for public safety employees; VACo members must urge Senators Webb and Warner to oppose

By a largely party line vote on Thursday, July 1, the House of Representatives approved its version of a supplemental appropriations (H.R. 4899) that includes the mandatory collective bargaining mandate for public safety personnel. The main purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$80 billion in funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Senate soon will act on the legislation.

VACo members must urge Senators Webb and Warner to oppose the collective bargaining mandate included in H.R. 4899, the supplemental appropriation act. The mandate requires localities to collectively bargain with public safety employee labor unions over wages, benefits and working conditions.

[Read VACo's letter to Sen. Warner.](#)

[Read VACo's letter to Sen. Webb.](#)

This legislation forces states and localities to adopt federal collective bargaining standards, disregards existing state laws and ordinances that were developed to create an effective and efficient public sector workforce, and places the needs of a select group of workers - public safety officers - in front of the larger needs of the community and other public sector employees. States, counties, cities and towns are committed to providing their public safety workers with excellent working conditions, competitive salaries, excellent health and pension benefits, and a working environment that is safe and appropriate.

The House and Senate are in recess for the July 4 holiday and are scheduled to return, today, July 12. Please urge Senators Webb and Warner to oppose the mandate included in H.R. 4899, the supplemental appropriation act.

Contacting Senators Webb and Warner:

<http://webb.senate.gov>

<http://warner.senate.gov>