

# Memo

To: Kate Breen, NAATS President  
From: Wally Pike, Congressional Affairs  
CC: file  
Date: October 22, 2005  
Re: Update

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Around midday yesterday I received notice that Senator Snowe had placed an amendment on the TTHUD agenda. Initially I thought it was the restrictive funding amendment but I later learned it was the “two more years” issue that I mentioned in my last update. None of the congressional offices working the amendment (Snowe, Collins, Thune) had contacted me, much less coordinated any language although I believe some of our members were in contact with these offices. In any case, late yesterday afternoon I received copies of the amendment and began dialogue indirectly with these staffs to see if the language could be modified (expanded).

The staff response was that this language had been negotiated between the co-sponsors and Chairman Bond; there was no interest in expanding the coverage. The Snowe amendment was accepted by unanimous consent before final passage of the Transportation Appropriations bill. The amendment language is the same as what I sent you last night.

I've received a number of calls and emails from members. I will answer these as I get time; it's very busy today. What I can say factually is this. The congressional intent is to cover only those employees who can retire in October 2007. Rest assured I'm aware of the limitations of this language including the DSR and good time issues.

The bill next moves to conference. I will do what I can to expand the coverage but, considering the fact that we weren't part of the original amendment language; I think it will be difficult to make many changes. I'm also aware that one staffer is telling constituents that there is an opportunity to make limited changes but so far Terry McNaughton of Snowe's staff has not returned any of my calls.

The 1.7% calculation correction has some energy behind it. We're trying to get the correction mentioned in the last update accomplished through conference resolution or report.

I will keep you advised of all developments.