



Council of Prison Locals C-33

409 Cleveland Avenue • Forrest City, AR 72335 • 870/633-0508, Fax: 870/633-0717

www.cpl33.info

The Council of Prison Locals, American Federation of Government Employees, represents nearly 30,000 staff members of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. These employees work in very difficult and challenging situations, walking one of the toughest public safety beats in America. We would like to take the opportunity to bring some important issues to your attention that affect this group of sworn Federal Law Enforcement Officers nationwide.

Please, Consider Co-sponsoring This Bill

H.R. 630: Law Enforcement Officers' Military Service Act

To waive the annuity buyback requirement under the Federal Employees Retirement Service with respect to certain law enforcement officers involuntarily called or retained on active duty, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Mark Critz (PA-12)

The Council of Prison Locals supports this bill: CPL represents hundreds of employees on active military duty deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. These employees' serve their country in two ways; first, they are sworn law enforcement officers and second, they are men and women serving their country in the military service.

Unfortunately, when these men and women return from serving in active duty, they must "buy back" their employee contribution in order to receive the proper retirement annuity.

In the Bureau of Prisons, this issue is magnified; our employees are covered under Law Enforcement Retirement (5 CFR 842.208.). This makes the employee eligible to retire at the age of 50 after 20 years of service or at any age after 25 years of service. Some employees have deployed for as many as 3 to 4 tours of duty. Upon their return, they discover they must pay back into the system to retire on their appropriate law enforcement retirement date. There have been examples of reservists having to repay up to \$1,800.00.

We believe this is inherently wrong. Law Enforcement Officers, who put their lives on the line every day, should not have their retirement affected due to military deployments. These veterans' who have served and continue to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan should not have to "buy back" into the system or suffer a reduction in their retirement annuity. H.R. 630 will amend Title 5 USC, Section 8411(c) to create a "waiver" of payment for time spent in active duty military service. We appreciate your support of our military personnel, law enforcement, and this bill.

If you have any questions about this issue, please feel free to contact the staff representative who contacted you, or feel free to contact me as well.

Sincerely Yours,

Michael Meserve, National Legislative Coordinator

Council of Prison Locals

84-803 Hanalei St, Waianae, HI 96792

Phone: (808) 780-3097

Fax: (855) 234-3275

Email: cpl33nlc@gmail.com

"Gain Strength Through Unity"