

Our Voice on Capitol Hill

Northwest Airlines Master Executive Council Government Affairs Committee

Association of Flight Attendants – CWA, AFL-CIO

Government Affairs Committee Report

June 30, 2008

Dear Leaders and members:

Our Issues:

Our Issues – FMLA

We continue to slowly build bipartisan support for S. 2059 the Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act, but unless we can get at least 3 more Republicans to cosponsor S. 2059 before the end of July, this bill will be virtually dead. We have come too far to let that happen. While our Government Affairs Committee activists continue to lobby Senate offices, often getting a commitment from those offices where we have established relationships, most Senate offices need to hear from their constituents (and this means hundreds of phone calls) before an office will even consider taking action. With only 34 Senate cosponsors we have our work cut out for us in July.

We now need to redouble our efforts to reach out to our Local Council members encouraging them to continue to call their Senators. One of the most effective ways to reach our members is cell phone and script in hand and having flight attendants make their calls on the spot. During the June 30 – July 6 Senate recess calls can be made to the District Offices. Local Councils should also be contacting their Central Labor Councils and State AFL-CIO Federations asking them to send out an action alert on this issue. For Senate contact information and script please go to www.nwaafa.org/committees/govaffairs.

The AFA-CWA International Office has produced “Have You Made Your Calls Yet” postcards that have been mailed to AFA members in targeted states.

Government Affairs Committee members have contacted Flight Attendants by phone in several targeted states. In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the presidents at this year’s annual MEC meeting in LAS that committed to helping us call members in GA, AZ and NV.

The AFA International web site has posted an “FMLA Action Center” on the AFA-CWA web site. You can download flyers, print postcards, find an updated S. 2059 cosponsor list and learn how your Representative voted on H.R. 2744.

There has been concerns raised about flight attendants contacting Senate offices that have already cosponsored S. 2059. This is fine. In fact, it confirms to the offices that this issue is an important one for their constituents.

This is a massive campaign and we should be using all the weapons in our mobilization and educational arsenal. If we let this bill die, remember we have to start all over again. And after our victory in the House, we cannot allow this to happen.

Our Republican targets remain:

Alaska	Senator Ted Stevens
Colorado	Senator Wayne Allard
Florida	Senator Mel Martinez
Maine	Senator Olympia Snowe
New Hampshire	Senator Judd Gregg
	Senator John Sununu
North Carolina	Senator Richard Burr
Ohio	Senator George Voinovich
Tennessee	Senator Lamar Alexander
Texas	Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Virginia	Senator John Warner

Below is a complete cosponsor list:

Alaska	Lisa Murkowski (R)
California	Barbara Boxer (D)
	Dianne Feinstein (D)
Connecticut	Christopher Dodd (D)
	Joe Lieberman (I)
Delaware	Tom Carper (D)
Hawaii	Daniel Akaka (D)
Illinois	Barack Obama (D)
	Richard Durbin (D)
Iowa	Tom Harkin (D)
Maine	Susan Collins (R)
Maryland	Barbara Mikulski (D)
	Ben Cardin (D)

Massachusetts	Edward Kennedy (D)
	John Kerry (D)
Minnesota	Norm Coleman (R)
	Amy Klobuchar (D)
Missouri	Kit Bond (R)
Montana	Jon Tester (D)
New Jersey	Frank Lautenberg (D)
	Robert Menendez (D)
New York	Hillary Clinton (D)
	Charles Schumer (D)
Ohio	Sherrod Brown (D)
Oregon	Ron Wyden (D)
	Gordon Smith (R)
Pennsylvania	Arlen Specter (R)
	Bob Casey (D)
Virginia	Jim Webb (D)
Washington	Patty Murray (D)
	Maria Cantwell (D)
West Virginia	Robert Byrd (D)
	Jay Rockefeller (D)
Wisconsin	Russ Feingold (D)

Voter Information Week – VOTE'08:

A Voter Information campaign is slated for the third week in August (August 18-22). We will be collaborating with the NWA Government Affairs team and Inflight Team on a Voter Information Campaign at each base. Volunteers from our Government Affairs committee will man tables and offer information regarding voter registration as well as absentee ballot request information. A comprehensive guide has been compiled by the NWA Government Affairs that will aide our volunteers in providing information to our members. Northwest recognizes the importance of getting out the vote and they have enthusiastically agreed to participate and offer their resources for this effort. We will be placing tables strategically in or near each Inflight office so that we can also extend this effort to ground personnel as well as flight attendants and pilots.

Every base manager has been advised and will be available to help us with this effort. Diana and I will be having a conference call with all base Chairs to discuss the logistics. I ask that each president extend their full support to their base chairs. Where there are no base Chairs, we will need an officer to conduct the week-long effort. Flight pay loss will be provided at 4:15 a day for 5 days per base. Each base Chair will be in charge of distribution and/or use of this flight pay loss to the extent that it is used for the sole purpose of ensuring the success of Voter Information Week.

There are some guidelines that we must follow in order to focus on our goal to get as many of our employees to vote in this very important election cycle. Discussion of union business will not be allowed at the tables. Any questions about the union or any questions about an individual flight attendant issue will be referred to the council. Any discussion on whom to vote for or support will be discouraged. We must respect all political affiliations and keep this effort completely bi-partisan. A list of AFA heroes will be made available to the members if they choose to look at it.

Website:

Please visit our web page at www.nwaafa.org/committees/govaffairs/ for the latest information on our issues. Our page is updated frequently and is full of links that will help you stay informed. You may also find out how and where to register to vote, view a video from the FMLA vote and read up on the Presidential election and much more.

Respectfully,

Albert Garcia
Government Affairs Chair
NWA Master Executive Council

Cc: MEC Officers
MEC (LEC Presidents)
Diana L. Mitcham – Vice Chair
Local Government Affairs Committee Chairs - members
Shane Larson – AFA-CWA
MEC Government Affairs Chairs –AFA-CWA Carriers
Elisabeth Joyce – MEC Communication
Web Page

