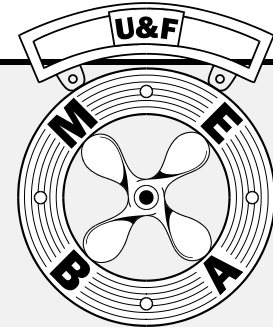


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2018



CG Reauthorization Bill Set for Signature

Congress passed a new Coast Guard Reauthorization bill that has been put before the President for his expected signature. In addition to funding Coast Guard operations and maintenance at \$700 million above Fiscal Year 2018 levels, the legislation also authorizes funding for oceangoing heavy icebreakers and reauthorizes and updates the authorities of the Federal Maritime Commission as well as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) hydrographic services. The authorized funding for agencies and provisions in the bill are subject to the appropriations process which will take place in the new Congress next year.

In addition, the Coast Guard bill contains the latest incarnation of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), which is designed to consolidate ballast water regulatory authority and will eliminate some of the conflicting discharge regulations that impede the operation of commercial vessels. The newly passed bill also makes changes to several Coast Guard working committees including the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MEDMAC) which will include a more prominent oversight role for merchant mariners on the Committee.

New Faces in Congress Supporting Working People

The AFL-CIO highlighted some of the labor-friendly lawmakers coming to Congress that will go to bat for working men and women across the country. Already, the election losses of union-bashing gubernatorial candidates such as Scott Walker in Wisconsin, Bill Schuette in Michigan, Bruce Rauner in Illinois and Kris Kobach in Kansas is evidence that the tide may be turning against labor-hating politicians. From teachers to waitresses, some of our newly elected leaders come from a variety of unions and industries. Meet a few of them below:

- U.S. Sen.-elect Jacky Rosen (UNITE HERE) waited tables in Las Vegas before becoming a computer programmer and software developer. She supports a \$15 minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, and investments in vocational training and apprenticeship programs.
- Gov.-elect Tony Evers (NEA) served Wisconsin as an education leader at every level before his election to the state's highest educational post. He ran on a platform to invest in public school education, as well as to protect and expand quality, affordable health care.
- Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer (AFT) comes from a long line of educators in Michigan and has fought to protect teachers and students from unnecessary cuts to education. She has a plan to fix Michigan's roads, bridges and highways and clean up the state's drinking water.
- Gov.-elect Tim Walz (Education Minnesota) was a longtime teacher in Minnesota before becoming a congressman who fought to invest in students and create good-paying jobs. He supports raising the minimum wage and opposes "right to work."

•U.S. Rep.-elect Jahana Hayes (CEA and AFSA) will represent Connecticut’s 5th District. As the 2016 National Teacher of the Year, she supports making college more affordable and equal pay for equal work. With her win, Rep.-elect Hayes is the first African American woman to represent Connecticut in Congress.

•U.S. Rep.-elect Ilhan Omar (AFSCME) will represent Minnesota’s 5th District. As a state representative, she fought to improve public housing and pass a \$15 minimum wage in Minneapolis. Rep.-elect Omar is the first Somali immigrant—and the first Muslim woman—to be elected to the U.S. House.