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## Report of Legislative Affairs 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

### COALITION BUILDING

During the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the ILFOP has formed a coalition with other police and fire political action groups and the Illinois Public Pension Assoc. That unified effort proved successful in holding the line against the first wave of attacks on public safety employee pensions. The plan to grow the coalition during the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly resulted in the *WE ARE ONE* campaign to push back against the negative media messages against public employees. Our Police & Fire Coalition met on June 28<sup>th</sup> and exchanged information and discussed upcoming Veto Session and coordinating responses to anticipated legislation.

### ACTION ALERTS & MEMBERSHIP RESPONSE

Press releases and notices posted via the FOP website and social media alerted members to legislation that would drastically affect benefits of most public employees. To facilitate contacts with legislators, links and phone numbers to help members identify their legislators and key committee lists were included. The FOP membership answered the call with gusto. House Republican Leader, Tom Cross (R-Oswego), called the phone element of the WE ARE ONE campaign the best organized effort he had experienced in his time at the General Assembly.

**SB 1679**- Schoenberg (D-Evanston) would have required the board of each downstate police and downstate firefighter fund to transfer all investments to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund for all management and administration. This bill broke a negotiated agreement, to study such investment pooling, contained in the pension reform bill [PA 96-1495] passed just one month earlier. This legislation was held in Rules Committee; however an amendment to SB 1831 by Rep. May (D-Highwood) in last weeks of the Spring Session revived the scheme. FOP Gov't. Affairs Director, Nelson testified in House Executive Committee against the measure and an amendment followed to strike the language involving police and fire pensions.

**SB 512** - Cross (R-Oswego) was likewise, amended late in the session to make it the latest version of so-called public employee pension reform; requiring workers to pay more to get less. The clear goal is to push all employees into 401k pensions. Several employee groups were exempted from the bill, but FOP members in IDOC and other Article 14 [state law enforcement ] were affected by the bill. Tens of thousands of legislative contacts were made and the measure was not called for a vote. However, legislative leaders published a statement acknowledging the need to meet with labor leaders and promised to return in the Fall Veto Session to deal with pension reform. No meeting has been scheduled as of July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

### ILFOP LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

**SR 052**- Munoz (D-Chicago) designates the first Wednesday in May as Disabled Peace Officers Recognition Day in the State of Illinois. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

**HB 1985** - D'Amico (D-Chicago) mandates that municipal police agencies (cities and counties) that receive false complaints filed against law enforcement officers forward those cases to the appropriate State's Attorney for review and prosecution. PASSED BOTH HOUSES.

### MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

The ILFOP State Lodge again drafted formal resolutions from the Illinois General Assembly to the families of fallen officers. Working with FOP member Senator John Milner (R-West Chicago), 17 presentation grade resolutions were dedicated the officers honored at this year's Police Officers Memorial.