



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

THE BREAKDOWN

The Federal Sector FMLA Blog

Leave Act developments affecting the federal sector by Carl C. Bosland, Esq.

Vetoed Child Health Insurance Bill Included FMLA Changes

Tucked into the recently vetoed State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization legislation was an amendment by Democratic presidential contenders Dodd and Clinton that would have expanded the FMLA. The legislation amends the FMLA and the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) to provide up to 26 weeks of job-protected leave during a 12-month FMLA leave year for a spouse, parent or child to provide care for an injured military service member. A second provision would extend job protections to family members who take up to a year to care for a recovering service member.

President Bush has indicated some willingness to accept compromise SCHIP legislation. No word if that compromise includes stripping the FMLA expansion provisions from the legislation. According to published reports, the Senate vote of 67 to 29 is enough to override the veto, but the House vote of 265-159 would fall short of the required two-thirds to override the President's veto.

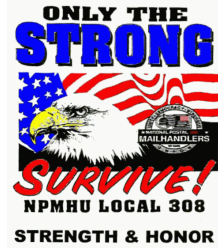
According to an article in today's Denver Post, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Democrats are about 14 Republican votes shy of being able to override the president's veto. Speaker Pelosi indicated that her efforts to gain sufficient votes to override the President's veto were on-going.

Comment: Stay tuned!

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