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DATE: August 9, 1996

TO: NATIONAL COUNCIL SSMA OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MAUREEN McCONAGHY, NATIONAL GRASSROOTS COORDINATOR  
WILLIAM DIXON, EDITOR 'MASS MEDIA'

RE: Legislative Report #29

Note: There are only 12 more "legislative days" scheduled before the end of the 104th Congress. Anything introduced during this Congress that is not passed by both chambers of Congress and signed by the President, dies along with the 104th. Whether non-enacted proposals will be unearthed intact for action in the 105th depends on many unpredictable factors, including, of course, outcomes of the elections. Chances that the 104th will stay in session longer than one week into October, which would extend the work days only slightly, are extremely slim.

H.R. 782, THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION IMPROVEMENT ACT, BECOMES PUBLIC LAW 104-177:

Since my last report, Rep. Wolf successfully brought H.R. 782 to the House floor just before Congress recessed at the end of last week. The bill went immediately to the President for signature and was signed August 6th. You now have regulations (replacing the former Federal Personnel Manual Chapters) which require agency consultation with federal employee management associations and a new law which removes the threat of criminal law violation when federal employees express those association views within the Executive Branch. It has been a two-year effort on which many people and organizations worked hard, including NCSSMA and several other members of the Coalition for Effective Change. I have personally delivered the NC's thanks and letters of appreciation to Rep. Wolf and Senator Warner and their staff who assisted patiently with this effort, to Senate Majority Leader Lott for his instruction to move the bill to the Senate floor, and to Rep. Jacobs (D-Ind) and Rep. Horn (R-Ca) who were among those we asked to, and who did, sign onto Wolf's letter which helped move the bill in both the Senate and House so that it would be assured of enactment in this Congress. I am now sending thanks to about 40 others who signed onto the Wolf letter (listed in legis rpt #28).

FY 97 Appropriations:

Even as I returned from the Denver and Philadelphia Regional conferences, at which we discussed the probability that SSA funding, and possibly the funding of many more agencies, would be in the form of a Continuing Resolution through next March, the