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TO: NATIONAL COUNCIL SSMA OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RE: Legislative Report #33

FY 99 Government Funding: It appears that it will be next week before I can begin reporting on final outcomes for the 105th Congress. Negotiators for Congress and the Administration continue to meet today to review language on agreements struck so far and to try to reach agreement on the remaining outstanding issues involved in the FY 99 omnibus continuing resolution -- involving funding for specific educational initiatives and the possible inclusion of any tax cuts. Even if final agreements are reached today, it will take some time to craft language changes and move the package through the House and Senate. A fourth short-term CR extending stopgap funding until midnight Friday is therefore expected to be enacted today.

Supervisory overtime: Just in case there is any lingering confusion, the opportunity to advance H.R. 3956 this year was lost when numerous civil service reform proposals under consideration by the House Civil Service Subcommittee were dropped until the next Congress. The Civil Service Subcommittee has jurisdiction over federal pay issues, and controls whether and how the overtime proposal proceeds. We will therefore need their cooperation and support to advance any legislation introduced on this issue in the next Congress. However, NCSSMA and FMA have continued working even at this late hour in the 105th Congress to obtain additional co-sponsors on the current bill in the hope of building support for re-introduction next year. During the last week, nine more Members of Congress have signed on H.R. 3956: Rep. Sisisky of Va., Rep. C. Brown of Fla., Rep. Pallone of N.J., Rep. Hinchey of N.Y., Rep. Cummings of Md., Rep. Clyburn of S.C., Reps. Abercrombie and Mink of Ha., and Rep. DeFazio of Oregon. Rep. Davis now has 17 co-sponsors on his bill. After the elections, we will meet with him again on this issue and ask his leadership in introducing a new bill; we will then urge those who have co-sponsored H.R. 3956 to sign on in the 106th Congress as original co-sponsors of the re-introduced legislation.

We also continue to work to obtain a response from OPM regarding their views and plans on this issue. Informal reports are that there is the view within OMB for doing, if anything, nothing more than a guarantee that employees at and above GS 10 who are exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act are paid at their regular rate of pay for overtime hours worked. If true, we cannot expect OPM to come forward with a more generous proposal, and we must continue persistent efforts with Congress to push for a more equitable resolution.

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