

issues - Justice

Justice

Helping Law Enforcement

Louise cosponsored the comprehensive Crime Bill that put more police officers on the streets. The bill created Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants, which have provided local law enforcement agencies in Western New York with funding for 95 police officers.

-Rep. Slaughter and her colleagues requested \$1.2 billion for a Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) Repository. The database would collect PSI reports, which contain a wealth of offender-specific information vital to the effective management of offenders and are used by the courts to sentence offenders. Currently, PSI reports are largely unavailable to the rest of the state's criminal justice agencies. The idea is that greater access to PSI reports would facilitate more effective management of offenders in correctional settings and reduce recidivism rates.

-The Congresswoman is a cosponsor of H.R. 3547, the Gang Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression Act. This legislation would create a gang-specific tool to attack street gangs in the same way traditional organized crime figures were brought down using the federal racketeering statute (RICO). Our bill is also designed to facilitate anti-gang efforts by bringing together Federal, State and local law enforcement, providing them with effective and tailored legal tools, and authorizing funds to make these partnerships effective. It allocates \$700 million for community-based efforts to keep kids out of trouble.

Louise cosponsored legislation to create a national AMBER alert network. AMBER alert communication networks help law enforcement officers quickly to inform broadcast media of critical details when a child is kidnapped and considered endangered. Radio and TV stations then use the Emergency Alert System to interrupt their programming with the emergency information.

Violence Against Women

Louise coauthored the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) enacted into law in 1994. VAWA combats sexual abuse and violence against

women, especially domestic violence. It also works to eliminate gender bias in the judicial system.

Louise is also a cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Civil Rights Restoration Act. This bill would restore federal civil liabilities for gender-motivated crimes and allows the Attorney General to bring legal actions to eliminate discriminatory practices in the investigation or prosecution of gender-based crimes.

-The Congresswoman cosponsored legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. This bill would reauthorize and revise several facets of the program and establish various programs for prevention and treatment of violence against women, including domestic violence, child abuse, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking violence.

Louise is cosponsoring legislation to provide grants to state and local governments for the testing and analysis of DNA evidence in sexual assault cases. This legislation would help state and local governments more quickly test DNA evidence and catch up on the backlog of DNA waiting to be tested.

Protecting Your Civil Liberties

Louise believes that efforts to protect the nation from terrorism are vital, but that constitutional civil liberties need protection too. She has cosponsored legislation to protect legal protections for libraries and bookstores.

The Congresswoman has also cosponsored legislation to restore the rights of Habeus Corpus for anyone detained by the United States, whether domestic or foreign. The erosion of our civil rights cannot be condoned in the face of our efforts to protect our nation.

The USA Patriot Act, passed days after the terrible events of September 11, 2001, allows federal law enforcement officers to conduct "sneak and peek" searches without telling anyone. Louise is cosponsoring legislation to place limits on these searches.

Gun Safety

Louise has been a long time supporter of improved gun safety. She is leading the fight in Congress against the powerful gun lobby to pass proposals that would require non-licensed gun sellers to conduct criminal background checks on buyers at gun shows, restrict access to guns for juveniles, and mandate child safety features on handguns.

The Congresswoman cosponsored and successfully fought for enactment of the Brady Handgun Purchase Waiting Period and Assault Weapon Ban laws. Since 1995, this bill prevented over 840,000 fugitives, stalkers and felons from buying handguns.

-Louise is a cosponsor of legislation to reauthorize the ban on assault weapons will help keep guns out of the hands of people who committed violent crimes as juveniles.

Louise is working to close the gun show loophole. She is a cosponsor of a bill that would to help stop criminals from getting around the Brady laws by buying guns at gun shows.

-Rep. Slaughter opposed a rule change in the national park system that would allow people to carry loaded, concealed weapons in the parks.

Quality
of Life and Fairness

Louise cosponsored the REDUCE Spam Act, which would decrease the amount of unwanted and misleading spam e-mail messages.

-Louise is a cosponsor of H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, legislation that enhances penalties for willfully causing bodily injury to any person because of perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability of the victim. This bill passed the House in May of 2007 and is awaiting Senate action.

Louise is cosponsoring attempts to extend family and medical leave protections so that grandparents and siblings can take time off of work to care for ill family members.

-Louise is a cosponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Helpful
Links

The Department of Justice Response Center helps state and local agencies apply for federal grants from the Department of Justice, such as COPS grants.