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## Legislative Alert © March 10, 2011

As a part of NOPA's mission to empower Portuguese-Americans, this Legislative Alert is sent out every two weeks as pertinent developments occur in order to keep the community informed of legislative action at the national level. This objective, non-partisan report aims to educate those interested about action on Capitol Hill that may affect the Portuguese-American community at large.

If you have any questions about federal policy and proposed legislation, please contact NOPA's Government Affairs Team at [info@nopa-us.org](mailto:info@nopa-us.org) or 703-389-3512.

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## Senate Rejects Two Continuing Resolution Proposals

This week, the Senate rejected H.R. 1, a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the remainder of fiscal year 2011, passed by the House that cuts \$61 billion in non-defense discretionary spending by a vote of 44-56. The Senate also failed to pass a substitute amendment offered by Sen. Inoye, D-HI, that cuts \$6.5 billion from the current fiscal year by a vote of 42-58. Both of these plans were expected to fail and now leaders from the House, Senate and the Obama Administration will need to reach a compromise agreement before the current CR expires on March 18. Negotiations have already begun and a bipartisan "Group of Six" senators have also been working on a compromise agreement that would address entitlement spending and raising revenues. Both sides would like to reach an agreement and avoid any risk of a government shutdown.

### **Legislative Text for the Democratic Alternative to H.R. 1:**

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=5b0966b4-d47b-4ae1-8c24-a2ce4f695c55>

**Highlights for the Democratic Alternative to H.R. 1:**

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=7e62b4eb-ed09-4dd4-86f0-411534783127>

**Vote Count for Democratic Alternative to H.R. 1 (42y-58n):**

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=112&session=1&vote=00037](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=112&session=1&vote=00037)

**Legislative text for H.R. 1:**

[http://www.rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF\\_112\\_1/legislativetext/2011crapprops/BILLS-112hr1ih.pdf](http://www.rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF_112_1/legislativetext/2011crapprops/BILLS-112hr1ih.pdf)

**A summary of the bill from House Republicans:**

[http://republicans.appropriations.house.gov/\\_files/SummaryFiscalYear2011ContinuingResolutionCR.doc](http://republicans.appropriations.house.gov/_files/SummaryFiscalYear2011ContinuingResolutionCR.doc)

**Vote Count for H.R. 1 (44y-56n):**

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=112&session=1&vote=00036](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=112&session=1&vote=00036)

## Congressional Portuguese American Caucus Update

The Congressional Portuguese American Caucus is now officially listed as a Congressional Member Organization (CMO) of the 112th Congress. You can click on the link for CMOs of the 112th Congress here: [http://cha.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=329&Itemid=360](http://cha.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=329&Itemid=360)

If you have not already done so, please call and/or email Congressmen [Cardoza](#) and [Costa](#) to thank them for their efforts to reinstate the Caucus and for their commitment to the Portuguese-American community. It is important for our elected officials to hear from the community and we hope that you will reach out to thank them.

In the next couple weeks, we'll be sending out more detailed information on inviting your federal policymakers to join the Congressional Portuguese American Caucus. In the meantime, please call and/or email your Members of Congress and Senate and urge them to join the Caucus. The more Members the Caucus has, the stronger the voice our community will have on Capitol Hill. The Caucus remains open for Members to join at any time throughout the 112th Congress so if your Member does not initially join, we can continue to invite them over the next two years. You can find contact information for your elected official below.

**US House of Representatives Contact Information:**

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

**US Senate Contact Information:**

[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

## House Approves Legislation to Repeal 1099 Provision

Last week, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 4, the Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act, legislation that would repeal the 1099 reporting requirement that was part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; the provision requires businesses to file a 1099 tax form for every purchase of \$600 or more beginning in 2012.

The legislation passed by the House would offset the repeal by requiring those on the threshold of 400 percent of the federal poverty limit to pay back insurance exchange subsidies if their income increases over the course of a year. Democrats and President Obama oppose this offset and countered that it would result in a tax increase on middle class Americans.

The Senate last month approved an amendment to the Federal Aviation Administration authorization bill sponsored by Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-MI, that would repeal the 1099 provision and offset the change by using unspent and unobligated funds. Since both bills differ, the House and Senate will need to negotiate on a compromise agreement that can be sent to the President. However, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-NV, announced this week that he would like to bring up the House-passed bill for a vote in the Senate although it is not certain if enough moderate Democrats would support it. Regardless of what the Senate plans to do regarding H.R. 4, both sides would like to reach an agreement soon on this provision, which has wide bipartisan support.

## Legislation Recently Introduced That Could Have an Impact on Our Community

By Mr. **LEVIN** (for himself and Mr. **LEAHY**):

**S. 430.** A bill to modify the naturalization requirements related to physical presence in the United States for alien translators granted special immigrant status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. **GILLIBRAND**:

**S. 456.** A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to require monthly reporting to the Secretary of Agriculture of items contained in the cold storage survey and the dairy products survey of the National Agriculture Statistics; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. **GILLIBRAND**:

**S. 457.** A bill to allow modified bloc voting by cooperative associations of milk producers in connection with a referendum on Federal milk marketing order reform; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. **OWENS** (for himself, Mr. **COURTNEY**, and Mr. **HANNA**):

**H.R. 874.** A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for Farm Service Agency loans; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. **CARTER** (for himself, Mr. **SHULER**, Mr. **MCINTYRE**, and Mr. **GOHMERT**):

**H.R. 800.** A bill to make the E-verify program permanent, and to provide for penalties to enforce compliance with the program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. **ROYBAL-ALLARD** (for herself and Mr. **POLIS**):

**H.R. 933.** A bill to reform immigration detention procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland

Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. **MIKULSKI** (for herself and Mr. **KIRK**):

**S. 497.** A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements of the visa waiver program and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. **INHOFE**:

**S. 503.** A bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. **UDALL** of Colorado (for himself, Ms. **SNOWE**, Mr. **SCHUMER**, Mrs. **BOXER**, Mr. **BROWN** of Ohio, Ms. **COLLINS**, Mr. **FRANKEN**, Mrs. **GILLIBRAND**, Mr. **LEAHY**, Mr. **LIEBERMAN**, Mr. **NELSON** of Florida, Mr. **REED**, Mr. **WHITEHOUSE**, and Mr. **WYDEN**):

**S. 509.** A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act, to advance the ability of credit unions to promote small business growth and economic development opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. **BRADY** of Texas (for himself, Mr. **LARSON** of Connecticut, Mr. **PAULSEN**, Ms. **ESHOO**, Ms. **MATSUI**, and Mr. **MCCAUL**):

**H.R. 942.** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the research credit through 2012 and to increase and make permanent the alternative simplified research credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. **QUIGLEY**:

**H.R. 959.** A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements of the visa waiver program and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

## Upcoming Congressional Hearing on Immigrant Workers

### House Judiciary Committee - Hearing

10:00 am  
03/10/2011

Immigration Policy and Enforcement Subcommittee hearing on "New Jobs in Recession and Recovery: Who Are Getting Them and Who Are Not."

**Witness(es):** TBA

**Location:** 2141 Rayburn House Office Building

**Contact:** 202-225-3951 <http://judiciary.house.gov> (+WAHO087+)

## About Us

*The source for all Congressional legislation information on this report was the THOMAS system from The Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>). Links for each of the bills listed above direct readers to the THOMAS web page specific to the bill.*

*You can find a PDF file of this and other alerts at NOPA's [website](#). If you have any questions about this or other legislation, please contact NOPA's Government Affairs Team at [info@nopa-us.org](mailto:info@nopa-us.org) or 703-389-3512.*

*The National Organization of Portuguese-Americans is a national non-profit, tax exempt organization that supports and works with communities and organizations to advocate for and empower Portuguese-Americans. If you feel inspired to join our mission, please send your tax deductible contribution to:*

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