



SENATOR FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Current Term Accomplishments in Blue

MAKING NEW JERSEY SAFER FROM TERRORISM AND HOLDING TERROR STATES ACCOUNTABLE

- **Port Security:** Congress passed into law Senator Lautenberg's amendment to the 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations bill to require that all federal port security grants be allocated entirely on the basis of risk. (109th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 1197, adopted on July 14, 2005.) All federal port security grants are now risk-based (109th Congress, H.R. 4954). Senator Lautenberg also wrote the law requiring 100% security screening of U.S.-bound cargo containers before they are shipped to our ports (109th Congress, Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee amendment to S.2459/H.R. 4954, became Public Law 109-347).
- **Chemical Plant Security:** Senator Lautenberg wrote the law to preserve New Jersey's strong chemical security laws and allow them to be stronger than federal regulations. The Lautenberg law prevents the Bush Administration from moving forward with its proposal to preempt and nullify New Jersey's strong chemical security laws. Senator Lautenberg's legislation was included in the FY2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill (Public Law No 110-161).
- **Aviation Security:** Won Senate votes to lift the nationwide cap on baggage screeners, which would allow the Transportation Security Administration to hire more screeners for Newark-Liberty Airport. (109th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 4940, agreed to on September 12, 2006, by a vote of 85-12, Record Vote No. 241. Also in S.4 in the current Congress, pending Conference Committee disposition.) Senator Lautenberg then wrote into law provisions removing the arbitrary cap in the 9/11 bill that Congress passed in 2007 (Public Law No 110-53)
- **Rail Security:** Senator Lautenberg wrote provisions that are now law to authorize \$160 million to upgrade tunnels used by NJ Transit and Amtrak in New Jersey and New York (Public Law No.110-53)

- **Holding Libya Accountable:** Senator Lautenberg led the effort to prevent foreign aid for Libya until the Libyan government fully compensates the American victims of its terrorism it sponsored in the 1980s. This funding restriction became law in the FY2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill (*Public Law No 110-161*)
- **Terrorist Access to Guns:** After Senator Lautenberg exposed that the Bush Administration was blocking law enforcement from retrieving data about gun purchases by people on the terrorist watch list, the Department of Justice changed its policies, and now provides information to law enforcement when suspected terrorists purchase weapons. In 2007, at Senator Lautenberg's urging, the Administration has endorsed Lautenberg's proposal to restrict gun sales to suspected terrorists. (*GAO Report 05-127, January 2005*).
- **Justice for Victims of Terrorism:** Senator Lautenberg wrote the laws that allow victims of terrorism to bring legal action against foreign governments that sponsor terrorist acts. This legislation helped the Flatow and Duker families of New Jersey recover damages from Iran. (*Public Law No. 104-208*). Senator Lautenberg then wrote a law early in 2008 to strengthen the right of terrorist victims to sue state sponsors of terrorism and go after their hidden commercial assets for compensation. The Lautenberg law was included in the FY2008 Department of Defense Authorization bill (*110th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 2251 accepted on 9/26/2007 to H.R. 1585, later H.R. 4986, now Public Law No. 110-181*). Because of pressure brought by this latest legislation, Senator Lautenberg then sponsored a new law, the Libyan Claims Resolution Act, that implements a final settlement agreement and resolves all outstanding U.S. terrorism claims against the Libyan government, including the amount owed by Libya for the 1988 Pan Am 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270, including 38 from New Jersey, the 1986 Labelle discotheque bombing in Berlin, Germany which killed two and injured approximately 90 Americans and other U.S. deaths and injuries in pending cases. (*110th Congress, S. 3370, now Public Law 110-301*). On August 14, 2008, the new settlement agreement was signed by both countries, and now the funds must be provided by Libya.
- **No Foreign Aid for Terror States:** Senator Lautenberg was a prime author of laws banning foreign aid to countries that sponsor terrorism. (*Public Law No. 101-513*).

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Preventing Oil Spills:** Following the 2004 incident in which the *Athos I*, a single-hulled oil tanker ship, spilled 265,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River, Senator Lautenberg sought to change federal law to force oil shippers to switch to “double-hull” tankers. He successfully inserted new standards into the 2006 Coast Guard law, to nearly triple the federal liability limits for shippers who continue to use single-hulled vessels instead of much safer double-hulled vessels. (*Public Law No. 109-241*).
- **Turning Federal Buildings Green:** Senator Lautenberg’s “High Performance Green Buildings Act” (*110th Congress, S.506*) became law on December 18, 2007, as part of broader energy legislation. (*Included in S.Amdt.1502 to H.R. 6, which was approved on June 21, 2007; H.R. 6 enacted as Public Law No. 110-140 on Dec. 19, 2007*). Lautenberg’s law will improve the energy efficiency, indoor air quality and environmental impact of our nation’s federal buildings, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emission.
- **Brownfields:** Congress approved Senator Lautenberg’s amendment to relieve tax-exempt entities such as foundations and university endowments from paying the “unrelated business income tax” when their investments are used to clean up Brownfield sites. (*108th Congress, Public Law No. 108-357*).
- **Stopping Ocean Dumping:** When concerns arose about the source of syringes floating onto New Jersey’s beaches and threatening public health during the 1980s, Senator Lautenberg authored legislation requiring a tracking program for medical waste in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and the Great Lakes states. Senator Lautenberg also wrote the 1988 laws banning ocean dumping of sewage and plastics. (*Public Law No. 92-532*).
- **Coastal Heritage Trail:** On May 08, 2008, Senator Lautenberg’s legislation to reauthorize and protect the Coastal Heritage Trail in New Jersey (S. 1039) became law as part of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (*Public Law No 110-229*).
- **Shore Protection:** As a member of the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works, Senator Lautenberg was able to secure federal resources to improve and extend a shoreline protection program used for Cape May and elsewhere along New Jersey’s coast in the Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization bill. (*109th Congress, S. 728, which has been incorporated into H.R. 2864*).

- **BEACH Act:** Senator Lautenberg's BEACH bill was signed into law by President Clinton. The law requires consistent water quality standards across all states and improve the public's right to know about the safety of beaches. (*Public Law No. 106-284*).
- **Toxic Right-To-Know:** In 1986, Senator Lautenberg authored the law giving citizens the right to know the toxic emissions that companies spew into the air, water and ground from chemical facilities. (*Public Law No. 99-499*).
- **Trash along Railways:** When unregulated rail waste sites began to proliferate in NJ, Senator Lautenberg pursued two pieces of legislation which would allow states to regulate the health, safety, and environmental protection of solid waste handling at these sites. His one-year provision (allowing states to regulate during FY 2008) became law in December 2007 after he added it via amendment at committee markup to the FY08 Omnibus Appropriations bill (*Public Law No 110-161*). Then, in September 2007, the Senate Commerce Committee approved Senator Lautenberg's *Clean Railroads Act of 2007 (S.719, included via amendment to S.1889)*, to permanently allow states to regulate these waste sites. The full Senate passed S. 1889 on August 1, 2008, and then again on October 1, 2008, as part of H.R. 2095. H.R. 2095, and Lautenberg's *Clean Railroads Act* became law on October 16, 2008 (*Public Law No 110-432*).

SAFER TRAVEL ON THE ROAD

- **21 Year Old Drinking Age:** Senator Lautenberg wrote the law that set a national 21 year old drinking law, which has helped save thousands of lives and prevented many more from grievous injury. (*Public Law No. 98-363*).
- **.08 Drunk Driving Standard:** President Clinton signed this landmark drunk driving bill into law in 2000. The Lautenberg law required that all states establish .08 blood alcohol content as the minimum threshold for drunk driving. (*Public Law No. 106-346*). In June 2008, another Lautenberg law took effect to reduce drunk driving by requiring states to change laws so repeat drunk drivers will have ignition interlocks (which prevent a vehicle from starting if a sensor detects alcohol on a driver's breath) installed on their cars and trucks. (*Public Law No. 110-244*).
- **Triple-Trailer Trucks:** Senator Lautenberg wrote the law, banning triple-trailer "killer trucks" from New Jersey's and most other states' roads. (*Public Law No. 102-240*).

KEEPING AMERICA AND NEW JERSEY MOVING

- **Amtrak:** Senator Lautenberg and former Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) are the principal authors of the Amtrak revitalization bill, which will provide \$19.6 billion to keep Amtrak going strong into the future. The Senate passed Senator Lautenberg's legislation 70-22 on October 30, 2007 (*110th Congress, Record Vote No. 400*) and then again on October 1, 2008 as part of a larger bill, H.R. 2095. H.R. 2095, and Lautenberg's Amtrak revitalization bill, became law on October 16, 2008 (*Public Law No 110-432*). In addition, in the 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which is now law (*Public Law No 110-161*) Senator Lautenberg worked to secure \$1.325 billion in funding for Amtrak, which was \$425 million over President Bush's request and included, for the first time, new grants to states for passenger rail projects (\$30 million).
- **Transportation Funding for New Jersey:** As a Senate conferee on the SAFE-TEA bill, Senator Lautenberg helped increase federal transit spending in New Jersey by 50 percent and highway spending by 30 percent. (*Public Law 109-59*)
- **Preventing Air Traffic Control Privatization:** In 2003, the Senate voted in favor of Senator Lautenberg's amendment to prevent the Bush Administration's reckless plan to privatize the nation's air traffic control system. (*108th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 893, agreed to on June 12, 2003, by a vote of 56-41, Record Vote No. 222*). When Republican leaders stripped his amendment from the final bill, he filibustered the bill until the Bush administration pledged not to pursue privatization. (*Filibuster upheld on November 17, 2003, by a vote of 45-43, Record Vote No. 453*).
- **Airport Runway Safety:** Following incidents at Teterboro and other airports nationwide, the Senate approved Senator Lautenberg's amendment to require the FAA to bring airport runways up to safety standards. Currently, over half of the nation's runways do not meet standards. (*109th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 2188, adopted on October 20, 2005, Public Law No. 109-115*).
- **Trans-Hudson Express Tunnel:** Senator Lautenberg has led the effort to obtain Federal resources for the construction of a third rail tunnel under the Hudson River, for use by PATH trains. As a conferee on the SAFE-TEA bill, he secured \$80 million, and he has helped to secure an additional \$31.4 million for the project in Transportation Appropriations bills since 2003. (*Public Law No. 109-59; Public Law Nos. 108-199; 108-447; 109-115 (Public Law No 110-161)*)

- **Improving Airline Accountability to Customers:** The Senate Commerce Committee approved Senator Lautenberg’s legislation to require the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to investigate more airline customer service complaints, including overbooked flights, lengthy air delays, cancellations, and the arbitrary elimination of frequent flier miles. Currently, DOT records complaints but investigates few of them. In addition, Senator Lautenberg got \$2.5 million for the DOT office that investigates these complaints in the FY08 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which is now law (*Public Law No 110-161*)
- **Rail Safety:** The Senate Commerce Committee on 09/27/07 unanimously approved Senator Lautenberg’s rail safety legislation (S. 1889) to reauthorize the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), require railroads to make changes to improve railroad safety (hours of service, grade crossing safety, new safety technology), and authorize appropriations for FRA programs, research and development, and grants for 6 years. (*Senate Report 110-270*). The full Senate passed this bill on August 1, 2008 and then again on October 1, 2008 as part of H.R. 2095. H.R. 2095, and Lautenberg’s full rail safety bill, became law on October 16, 2008 (*Public Law No 110-432*).

STANDING UP FOR AMERICA’S SOLDIERS & VETERANS

- **New GI Bill:** On May 22, 2008, the Senate passed the new Webb/Hagel/Lautenberg/Warner GI bill as part of the FY08 Supplemental. This bill became law on June 30, 2008 (*Public Law No. 110-252*). This law updates and improves the current GI bill, which has not kept pace with the rising cost of college, so that veterans who served since 9/11 can become the next “Greatest Generation” by receiving benefits equal to the full cost of college.
- **Compensating Service Members affected by “Stop-Loss”:** Based on legislation introduced by Senator Lautenberg (S. 3060), a provision became law on September 30, 2008 (*Public Law No. 110-329*) to provide a monthly bonus of up to \$500 to troops affected by “stop loss,” a policy that involuntarily extends military service beyond an enlistment contract. The provision was included in the Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Appropriations Act and requires the Pentagon to pay affected troops a bonus in the 2009 fiscal year.

- **Military/Veterans Prescription Coverage:** The Senate passed Senator Lautenberg's amendment in 2006 to prohibit the Bush Administration from moving ahead with its plan to increase co-payments by 67 percent on prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies for military families and veterans covered under the TRICARE program. (*109th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 4205, adopted on June 14, 2006, Public Law No. 109-364*). Senator Lautenberg wrote a similar law for FY2008 preventing increases in enrollment fees, premiums, and pharmacy co-payments for TRICARE (*110th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 2912 adopted on September 27, 2007 to H.R. 1585, later H.R. 4986, now Public Law No. 110-181*).
- **Body Armor Reimbursement:** Senators Lautenberg and Christopher Dodd (D-CT) were the principal sponsors of an amendment directing the Bush Administration to reimburse the families of military personnel who purchased body armor, weapons, and global positioning devices for their parents, spouses, sons or daughters serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. (*108th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 3312, adopted on June 14, 2004, by a vote of 91-0, Record Vote No. 112, Public Law No. 108-375*).
- **Protecting NJ Residents near Warren Grove Gunnery Range:** In response to fires and errant bombs from this range, Senator Lautenberg wrote a law to increase safety and accountability at the Warren Grove Gunnery Range in NJ. This law requires a report on safety measures and a master plan for the range that includes input and consideration of the neighboring community, environment, and economy of the region (*110th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 3029 adopted on September 25, 2007 to H.R. 1585, later H.R. 4986, now Public Law No. 110-181*).

SAFER FAMILIES

- **Domestic Violence Gun Ban:** Senator Lautenberg authored the Domestic Violence Gun Ban, the only significant gun safety legislation to pass Congress since the Assault Weapons Ban in 1994. (The Brady Law passed Congress in 1993 and went into effect in 1994.) Since its enactment into law at the end of September 1996, it has denied guns to domestic abusers over 150,000 times. (*Public Law No. 104-208*).

PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

- **Smoking on Airplanes:** Senator Lautenberg wrote the law banning smoking on airplanes, protecting individuals from secondhand smoke, which started the smoke-free revolution. (*Public Law No. 101-164*).

- **Smoking in Federally-Funded Facilities Serving Children:** Senator Lautenberg wrote the Pro-Kids law banning smoking in all federally funded places that serve children. He was also the author of legislation to ban smoking in federal buildings, which was adopted by the Clinton Administration. (*Public Law No. 103-112*).
- **Smoking in the U.S. Senate:** At Senator Lautenberg's suggestion and request, the U.S. Senate complex stopped selling tobacco products on January 1, 2008, and closed all of its "smoking rooms" on May 01, 2008.
- **Asbestos and Radon in Schools and Environment:** Senator Lautenberg wrote laws to help remove cancer-causing asbestos and radon from our schools and environment. (*Public Law No. 101-637*).
- **Preserving PAAD and Senior Gold:** The Medicare Prescription Drug bill was originally drafted to get rid of the PAAD and Senior Gold prescription programs in New Jersey. Only after pressure from Senator Lautenberg and then-Senator Jon Corzine did Republicans relent and agree to let New Jersey keep its more-generous drug plans along with the new Federal plan. (*Public Law No. 108-173*).
- **Improving Safety at College Campuses:** In response to the tragic fires at Seton Hall University, Senator Lautenberg introduced the "Campus Fire Safety Act" (*110th Congress, S.354*), to provide families with crucial fire safety records of colleges and universities by requiring schools to maintain these records and make them publicly available. This bill was approved by the Senate in July 2007 and the House of Representatives in February 2008 as part of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act (*110th Congress, S.1642, section 477*), which is now law (*Public Law No. 110-315*).

KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS OPEN

- **Preserving New Jersey Media:** After pressure from Senator Lautenberg, a member of the Senate Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), WWOR, Channel 9, reversed its plan to move the majority of its staff from Secaucus to New York. WWOR is New Jersey's only VHF commercial television station. Senator Lautenberg is also demanding more accountability and New Jersey local news coverage through WWOR's license renewal process at the FCC, which is currently underway.

FREEDOM FOR REFUGEES

- **Lautenberg Amendment for Refugees:** Senator Lautenberg wrote the "Lautenberg Amendment," which provides refuge in the U.S. for religiously persecuted Soviet Jews, evangelical Ukrainians, and others. (*Public Law No. 101-167*).

EXPOSING WASTE, FRAUD & ABUSE

- **Spending Medicare Money for Propaganda:** Senator Lautenberg spearheaded a Government Accountability Office (GAO) inquiry into the use of federal taxpayer funds to pay for fake news stories distributed to television stations by the Bush administration hyping the Medicare Part D prescription drug law. The GAO ruled that the Bush administration spent money for these fake news stories from the Medicare Trust Fund in violation of two federal laws. (*GAO Legal Decision B-302710, May 19, 2004*).
- **Exposing Pundit Payola:** Responding to Senator Lautenberg's inquiries, the GAO ruled that the Department of Education engaged in illegal "covert propaganda" when it made payments to journalist Armstrong Williams in exchange for positive press about President Bush's education programs. The GAO also found that the Department violated propaganda laws when it hired a public relations firm to produce fake television news stories. (*GAO Legal Decision B-305368, September 30, 2005*).
- **Iraq Contracts:** In May 2003, in response to the quickly growing no-bid contract awarded by the Bush administration to Halliburton, Senators Lautenberg, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and John Warner (R-VA) coauthored a provision in Fiscal Year 2004 DOD Authorization bill to force all future Iraqi reconstruction contracts to be competitively bid. (*108th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 826, adopted on May 22, 2003, by a vote of 99-0, Record Vote No. 193, Public Law No. 108-136*).
- **Special Inspector General for Afghanistan:** Senator Lautenberg wrote the law creating a Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), modeled after the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. After U.S. investments of nearly \$20 billion for the reconstruction and security of Afghanistan, reports continue to surface raising questions about lack of progress there. The Lautenberg law was included in the FY2008 Department of Defense Authorization Act (*110th Congress, Senate Amendment No. 3081 adopted on September 27, 2007 to H.R. 1585, later H.R. 4986, now Public Law No. 110-181*). The President nominated a Special Inspector General on May 29, 2008. In addition, Senator Lautenberg secured \$7 million for this office in the FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Act (*Public Law No. 110-252*).

- **Audit of No-Bid Trucking Security Grant Program:** Senator Lautenberg's amendment became law to require an audit of a DHS trucking security grant program. Since 9/11, all federal trucking security grant money (\$60 million) has been handed (no-bid) to a trucking company lobbying group. (*110th Congress, S.Amdt.275 to S.4, adopted March 13, 2007; became Public Law No.110-53*).

EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

- **Flood Money:** After a devastating storm in April 2007 that caused millions of dollars in damage and displaced hundreds of people, Senator Lautenberg secured \$10.7 million in emergency funds in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Supplemental to repair and advance flood control projects in Bound Brook, Long Beach Island, and Avalon. (*Public Law No. 110-28*).

ANIMAL PROTECTION

- **Ensuring the Safety of Pets during Emergencies:** On October 6, 2006, Senator Lautenberg's Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act (S. 2548) became law (*Public Law No. 109-308*). This law, which Lautenberg wrote with Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), requires state and local emergency preparedness authorities, with assistance and grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to account for the needs of people with pets or service animals in planning for major disasters.

PROTECTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- **HUD Policy Reversal:** Senator Lautenberg forced the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to reverse its policy and extend a deadline for New Jersey housing authorities to convert to a new accounting system. HUD changed course after Lautenberg wrote to the HUD Secretary and added language to legislation to extend the deadline. Public housing authorities in New Jersey could have lost nearly \$750,000.