



SENATOR FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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 prevented the Bush Administration from moving forward with its proposal to preempt and nullify New Jersey's strong chemical security laws. Lautenberg's legislation was included in the FY2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill (*Public Law No 110-161*).
- **Aviation Security:** Senator Lautenberg wrote into law provisions removing an arbitrary nationwide cap on baggage screeners, to allow the Transportation Security Administration to hire more screeners for Newark-Liberty Airport. (*Public Law No 110-53*)
- **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.
- **Justice for Victims of Terrorism:** In 1996, Senator Lautenberg wrote a law that allowed victims of terrorism to bring legal action against foreign governments that sponsor terrorist acts (*Public Law No. 104-208*). In 2000, he sponsored legislation that helped the Flatow and Duker families of New Jersey recover damages owed by Iran. (*Public Law No. 106-386 § 2002*).

Senator Lautenberg then wrote a law early in 2008 to strengthen the rights of terrorism 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*). This law was widely credited with bringing Libya to the negotiating table to resolve legal claims.

Senator Lautenberg then sponsored the Libyan Claims Resolution Act, a new law that implemented a final settlement agreement and resolved all outstanding U.S. terrorism claims against Libya, 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 on October 31, 2008, Libya deposited into a U.S. account the amounts it owed to settle cases brought by U.S. terror victims. By December 2008, the Pan Am and Labelle Disco bombing families were paid.

- **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 on 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*).
- **Great Falls in Paterson:** In March 2009, both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed a package of public lands bills (*H.R. 146*) introduced in the previous session of Congress, including Senator Lautenberg’s legislation (*S. 148, H.R. 189*) to make Great Falls in Paterson a National Historical Park. This legislation became law on March 30, 2009 (*Public Law No 111-11*).
- **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 an improvement in the public’s right to know about the safety of beaches. (*Public Law No. 106-284*).
- **Toxic Right-To-Know:** In 1986, Senator Lautenberg created the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) giving residents the right to know about toxic emissions companies spew into the air, water and ground from chemical facilities (*Public Law No. 99-499*). In late 2006, the Bush Administration implemented new rules that severely weakened reporting requirements under TRI. On March 11, 2009, Lautenberg successfully led efforts to overturn the Bush EPA’s rules in the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act (*H.R. 1105, Public Law No 111-8*), based on Lautenberg’s “Toxic Right-to-Know Protection Act” (*S. 595*), which passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on July 31, 2007 (*Committee Report Number 110-253*).
- **Trash along Railways:** When unregulated rail waste sites began to proliferate in NJ, Senator Lautenberg wrote a law to allow states to regulate the health, safety, and environmental protection of solid waste handling at these sites. In 2007, the Senate Commerce Committee approved Lautenberg’s *Clean Railroads Act of 2007* (*S.719, included via amendment to S.1889*), to allow states to regulate these waste sites. The full Senate passed S. 1889 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*).

- **Ocean Acidification:** In March 2009, both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed a package of bills (*H.R. 146*) introduced in the previous session of Congress, including Senator Lautenberg’s “Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act” (*S. 1581*). This legislation passed the Senate Commerce Committee on December 4, 2007 (*Committee Report Number 110-339*), and establishes a federal committee led by NOAA to research, monitor, and coordinate activities on ocean acidification across federal agencies.
- **Coastal Land Protection:** In March 2009, both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed a package of bills (*H.R. 146*) introduced in the previous session of Congress, including the “Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act” (*S. 1142*), introduced by Senators Lautenberg and Gregg (R-NH). This legislation passed the Senate Commerce Committee on June 5, 2007 (*Committee Report Number 110-78*), and awards grants to states with approved coastal management programs to protect environmentally sensitive lands.

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) authored the Amtrak revitalization law to keep Amtrak going strong into the future. The Senate passed 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*).
- **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 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)*)
- **Rail Safety**: The Senate Commerce Committee in 2007 unanimously approved Senator Lautenberg's rail safety legislation (S. 1889) to reauthorize the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), require railroads 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.
- **Ending the Military's "Stop-Loss" Policy:** Senator Lautenberg led efforts to compensate service members involuntarily extended beyond their contract because of the military's "stop loss" policy, and ultimately to end this policy. Based on legislation introduced by Lautenberg (*S. 3060*), a provision became law on September 30, 2008 (*Public Law No. 110-329*) to provide a monthly bonus of \$500 to troops affected by "stop loss" during FY 2009. In February 2009, Lautenberg wrote to Defense Secretary Gates urging him to promptly and fully distribute these payments. Gates subsequently announced that DOD would begin to disburse these payments and that the U.S. Army would end its "stop loss" policy.
- **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*).

- **Honoring the Fallen:** Senator Lautenberg fought to overturn a DOD policy prohibiting media coverage of coffins carrying fallen military personnel returning to Dover Air Force base. On June 21, 2004, Lautenberg offered an amendment (108th Congress, Record Vote No. 132, Amdt no. 2191 to S. 2400) on the Senate floor to instruct DOD to form a new protocol to allow the media to respectfully cover the return of heroes who have died, while preserving the privacy of families. Lautenberg sent a letter on February 9, 2009 to President Obama expressing his concerns and urging a new protocol. On February 26, 2009, Secretary of Defense Gates announced DOD would change this policy and begin to allow press coverage of returning fallen Americans with the consent of their families.

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 more than 150,000 times. (Public Law No. 104-208). On February 24, 2009, the United States Supreme Court upheld Lautenberg’s law and rejected arguments by the gun lobby and a convicted domestic abuser that would have allowed convicted abusers in at least 25 states to rearm themselves with guns. Lautenberg had submitted an amicus brief to the Court in defense of his law:
http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/briefs/pdfs/07-08/07-608_PetitionerAmCuSenLautenbergFeinsteinMurray.pdf.

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

- **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*).

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.

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