ICV Goes to Washington

In April of 2017, the Cruise Passenger Protection Act (H.R. 2172–S.965) was updated and reintroduced by Representatives Doris Matsui (D-CA), Ted Poe (R-TX) and Jim Himes (D-CT) in the House, and Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Edward Markey (D-MA) in the Senate.

This bipartisan bill includes provisions originally introduced in the 2013 CPPA along with new measures designed to strengthen the Man Overboard (MOB) requirements and medical requirements for cruise ships. In addition, this legislation includes wording to revise the antiquated Death on the High Seas Act (DOSHA), which was passed back in 1920. For nearly 100 years now, this legislation has prohibited victims’ families from taking action after the death of a loved one on a cruise.

Members of ICV who have either been victims of crimes themselves or had family members victimized, traveled in July to Washington, D.C. to gather congressional support for this new legislation.
ICV’s dedication to the needs of cruise ship passengers, especially those who have had crimes committed against them, stems from the fact that victims often feel alone and frustrated by jurisdictional uncertainties as well as poor and unfair treatment by cruise companies. As a result, in 2006 ICV began working with Congress to pass legislation to protect the vulnerable and voiceless victims of cruise ship crime. Eventually that work paid off in the form of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act (CVSSA). This legislation was passed by a 416 – 4 vote margin and was signed into law in 2010.

New Safety Provisions Added In July in Senate Bill (S.1602) by Senator Blumenthal

ICV is extremely pleased to announce that on June 23, 2017, Senator Blumenthal added an additional measure to the bill calling for Sea Marshals on all cruise ships that report directly to the U.S. Coast Guard. The wording of this new requirement is as follows:

SEA MARSHALS —The owner of a vessel to which this section applies shall ensure that the vessel is staffed at all times with an appropriate number, based on the vessel size and the number of passengers, of sea marshals who
have been certified by, and are operating under the jurisdiction of, the United States Coast Guard.

This is a much needed and longed for layer of protection for passengers, given the fact that most of us fail to realize that there are NO independent police on cruise ships, only cruise line trained and employed crew which constitutes an inherent conflict of interest in the event of a crime investigation.

ICV Victims Who Died While on a Cruise

International Cruise Victims Association

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FIND OUT MORE
The support of our members and friends has been essential in helping to cover the expenses necessary for ICV to move forward. We are a grassroots organization made up of volunteers with a passion to improve safety and security on cruise ships. Join us, won't you? And help us make a difference in the world.