

Section 306 of the House of Representatives 2007 Coast Guard Authorization Act
(Now section 719, 4-25-08)
Proposed by: Fr. Sinclair Oubre, J.C.L.
April 3, 2008

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of US and foreign seafarers have been denied shore leave since September 11, 2001.

WHEREAS shore leave is an ancient right to seafarers, which allows them to meet their personal needs, and maintain contact and interaction with their families.

WHEREAS there is great confusion between the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, and the Code of Federal Regulations regarding the facilitation by ports, docks and maritime facilities of shore leave by mariners, and access to ship by port chaplains, maritime ministers and port welfare agents.

AND

Whereas the House of Representatives' Transportation Committee has drafted Section 306 in the *2007 Coast Guard Authorization Act*, which reads:

SEC. 306. SEAMEN'S SHORESIDE ACCESS. Each facility security plan approved under section 70103(c) of title 46, United States Code, shall provide a system for seamen assigned to a vessel at that facility, pilots, and representatives of seamen's welfare and labor organizations to board and depart the vessel through the facility in a timely manner at no cost to the individual.

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that AOS-USA and its members support this legislation, and write letters encouraging their US Representatives and Senators to support the present language of Section 306.