

National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration
Deans and Directors Summit Conference
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Additional Issues:

Roosevelt Scholars Act of 2009

Current Status: Likely shelved for 2009 legislative session. Rep. Price's office looking to build support for next session.

Representative [David Price \(D-NC\)](#) introduced the [Roosevelt Scholars Act of 2009](#), H.R. 3510. The legislation would create a civilian ROTC program by offering graduate-level scholarships in mission-critical fields in exchange for a federal commitment of 3-5 years. This program focuses especially on technical fields such as science, engineering, and information technology, as well as law, public health and foreign languages. The program is designed to serve as a source of outstanding talent for the public service. Senator [George Voinovich \(R-OH\)](#) is planning to introduce the *Roosevelt Scholars Act* in the Senate. The Senate bill will likely include undergraduate and graduate scholarships for civil service and will be similar to [Senate Amendment #700](#) to the *Serve America Act*.

Due to a crowded legislative agenda, the bill is unlikely to see any action until the next session. Rep. Price's office is looking for contacts and partners to help push the bill forward.

Talking Points: *NASPAA supports the bill*, since some of our graduates would be eligible for the scholarship. The bill would help bring further prestige and higher quality candidates into the public service.

- NASPAA would like to see an amendment that specifically identifies public management as a mission critical occupational area.

United States Public Service Academy (USPSA)

Current Status: The bill is likely shelved because of funding concerns and lack of support. Rep. Moran's (MPA, Pitt, 1970) office is interested in finding ways to get to the root problem: recruiting qualified talent for the Federal service.

The USPSA is a proposed institution of higher education. The Academy would be a federally-subsidized four-year college devoted to public service and modeled on the United States military service academies. Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA), a 1970 Pittsburgh MPA graduate, reintroduced the [United States Public Service Academy Act \(H.R. 2102\)](#), which would create an undergraduate USPSA that provides four years of tuition-free education in exchange for five years in the civil service after graduation. H.R. 2102 currently has 56 co-sponsors in the House, and was referred to the House Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities. According to the USPSA website, Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) will introduce companion Senate legislation.

The Academy would cost \$205 million for annual operations, in addition to initial construction costs. This price tag has scared off many Congressmen, but there seems to be support and momentum for Federal hiring reform overall.

Talking Points: *NASPAA believes this bill is unnecessary and costly.*

- *The USPSA is redundant, given the strong 270 schools of public affairs and administration that already offer diverse courses and high-quality motivated talent for public service.*