

# 110th Sees Huge Challenges

## A quick overview of what's been going on in Washington and what lies ahead



By Bruce H. Hulme, NCISS Legislative Director

**B**y the time you read this, the 109th Congress will be history. Not one of the many Social Security number ban, data breach, or anti-pretexting bills that we have fought during this two year session of Congress passed. This was a major legislative victory for NCISS. Our officers, legislative committee and the general membership of NCISS worked many hard and long hours to defeat ill-conceived federal legislation. We prevailed despite the many congressional hearings and challenges we faced due to the bad press brought about by the Pellicano case, the H-P telephone record fiasco, identity theft reports, and over a hundred data security breaches of personal information that followed the initial ChoicePoint breach last year.

Although private investigators were able to dodge many bullets and were left still standing, the 110th Congress will be even a greater challenge as the Democrats take control of both the Senate and House of Representatives. There will now be new chairs of various committees that are of importance to NCISS and where we had developed excellent relations over a number of years with key members and their staff. This will now involve re-establishing a rapport with new leaders, particularly in Senate Judiciary and Finance and House Judiciary, Finance, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce Committees where many of the bills that threaten our industry are reviewed.

We have been fortunate to be able to continue to have the services of our dedicated and experienced government relations professional Larry Sabbath. He has guided us on the right course, prepared extensive memoranda and position papers, and arranged for NCISS to testify at key Congressional hearings where it was felt that such testimony would benefit our profession. Most importantly, he arranged many conferences with committee staff on numerous bills where NCISS was given an opportunity to give input, suggest exceptions, and make our concerns known to Congress.

Between now and the time that a new 110th Congress returns in January 2007, we will be meeting with

government relations representatives of ASIS International and the National Association of Professional Background Screeners. These two organizations have a vested interest in many of the same bills that concern members of NCISS. We will seek to join our voices in those legislative areas of mutual concern.

NCISS will also continue to meet with key officials of the Federal Trade Commission, particularly with respect to their concerns with consumer privacy, pretexting issues and identity theft. We will also continue to assist the International Association of Security and Investigative Regulators



Although private investigators were able to dodge many bullets and were left still standing, the 110th will be a greater challenge.

in their endeavors. IASIR has been very supportive of the positions taken by NCISS on the legislative federal front and has provided us with resolutions and letters in support of our

positions before Congress.

In addition to our usual fall Hit-the-Hill campaign in Washington, I expect that NCISS may very well have to plan a similar event in the early spring.

*continued on page 8*