



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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STATEMENT OF FOP NATIONAL PRESIDENT PATRICK YOES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION OF DUE PROCESS

One of the most basic rights afforded to American citizens is the right to due process. Due process does not protect the guilty; it is the means by which we guarantee the most fundamental aspect of our nation's justice system: innocent until *proven* guilty.

Even in cases where parties do not trust one another, they can and should be able to trust the process.

Sadly, many Members of Congress are undermining that trust in due process by ignoring its fair and universal application. Just as local law enforcement officers are often convicted in the media after being denounced by local elected officials without collecting the facts, these Members are violating due process to score political points.

Members of Congress tirelessly and stridently defend the due process rights of criminals, while seeking to curtail the rights of those charged with protecting American citizens. They seek to shield people who come to our country unlawfully from being subjected to our laws, and yet ignore the violence to citizens and to our economy committed by those who violate our immigration laws.

It is in vogue in Congress to demand "transparency" in all aspects of governance and they routinely insist on transparency from law enforcement officers and their agencies. Yet they have developed different standards for themselves.

You cannot have selective due process. Without transparency and due process, you place the American concept of innocent until proven guilty in jeopardy.

You cannot have justice without due process. Denying due process is a betrayal of our shared American ideals and a grave disservice to our Republic.

The Fraternal Order of Police exists, in part, to defend these rights, not just for police officers, but for all citizens at every level, from the indigent living on the street to the President living in the White House.