



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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COLLIER BILL POISED FOR ACTION IN HOUSE COMMITTEE *Refined bill protects PSOB program and gives long overdue survivor and disability benefits to fully sworn law enforcement*

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, applauded news that the leadership of the Committee on the Judiciary in the U.S. House of Representatives, working with the FOP, has refined the language in H.R. 816, the “Officer Sean Collier Campus Police Recognition Act,” clearing the way for consideration of this long overdue legislation. The bill’s sponsor, Representative Peter T. King (R-NY), also working with the FOP, played a key role in amending the bill as introduced.

“The FOP is fortunate to have friends on the Hill like Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Collins and, of course, Mr. King, whose support and friendship have been invaluable throughout his time in the House,” Canterbury said. “The Representatives and their staff worked with us to improve the language and now we have a bill which will finally, and properly, recognize the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers like Sean Collier, who protect the communities on our nation’s private universities and colleges.”

On 18 April 2013, Sean Collier of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Police Department was ambushed and murdered by the Tsarnaev brothers in the wake of their bombing of the Boston Marathon. Although Officer Collier was killed in the line of duty, his family was ineligible for the death benefit administered by the Public Safety Officers’ Benefit (PSOB) program because he was not employed by a public agency as required by law (34 USC 10 10284(9)). The bill introduced by Representative King would amend the Federal statute and extend to PSOB benefit to law enforcement officers employed by an institution of higher education, who have full police powers and whose agencies are certified by the State in which they operate.

“The changes to the bill as introduced safeguard the integrity of the PSOB program, which is reserved for public safety officers only,” Canterbury said. “Mr. King’s legislation recognizes that the only difference between campus police officers like Sean Collier and local police officers is the type of community they serve. We are proud to support this legislation and look forward to continuing our work with Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins in the coming weeks.”

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 348,000 members.

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