



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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20 February 2018

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn III
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Toomey and Cornyn,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for your bill, S. 2389, "Eric's Law."


Under current Federal law, the murder of a Federal law enforcement officer is a capital offense. Unfortunately, if the officer's killer is found guilty of murder and the Federal prosecutor requests the death penalty in the sentencing phase, the jury must consider and vote on whether to impose it. Even if eleven of the twelve jurors vote to put the cop killer to death, a single dissenting juror can keep from justice being served.

Your bill will amend the current law to allow Federal prosecutors to impanel a second jury for the sentencing phase of a Federal capital case if the first jury does not reach a unanimous decision on the sentence.

When justice is not served in the murder of Federal law enforcement officers, it is a slap in the face to every member of law enforcement in this country who have suffered their own recent losses at the hands of cop killers. Federal law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to keep our communities' and our country safe. It is time we close the loophole and get justice for our fallen heroes. This is especially important when ambushes of law enforcement officers have increased steadily over the last few years.

On behalf of the more than 335,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you for your leadership on law enforcement issues. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Senior Advisor, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President