



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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## **FOP PREVAILS ON EQUIPMENT PROGRAMS AMENDMENT**

### *Restoring Equipment Programs for State and Local Law Enforcement*

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, applauded the House of Representatives following the passage of an amendment offered by Representative David G. Reichert (R-WA) to H.R. 5293, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act,” which passed on a voice vote.

“This amendment will restore the integrity of important equipment programs for State and local law enforcement and lift the recently imposed limitations on the types of equipment that can be made available to law enforcement,” said Canterbury. “We’re very grateful for the support from Representative Reichert and for the help of Representative McCaul to see the passage of this amendment.”

Just a few days ago, in response to the terrorist attack in Orlando, law enforcement officers set off a controlled explosion to distract the shooter and used an armored vehicle to breach the walls of the Pulse nightclub. One of the responding officers was struck in the head, but his life was saved by his anti-ballistic helmet. These types of equipment were once readily available through several Federal equipment programs but Executive Order 13688 placed these explosives, breaching tools and even anti-ballistic helmets on a “controlled” equipment list. The end result is that this equipment is now much more difficult to obtain through Federal programs and imposes burdensome requirements on the receiving agency.

In reaction to unfavorable news coverage of law enforcement response to large demonstrations, the President established a Law Enforcement Equipment Working Group (LEEWG) due to concerns that our nation’s police were becoming to “militarized” and that standard equipment has the potential to be misapplied.

“No one at the scene of this tragic event in Orlando was troubled by the appearance of the armored vehicle, the use of explosives to effect a hostage rescue or the appearance of the responding officers wearing helmets,” said Canterbury. “The heroic response of law enforcement to the terrorist attack on the Pulse nightclub demonstrated the utility and necessity of the equipment our officers need and we are very pleased that Mr. Reichert’s amendment to H.R. 5293 was adopted to restore our nation’s equipment programs. This equipment saves lives and

I'm sure that Officer Michael Napolitano, whose anti-ballistic helmet saved his life, would agree." Canterbury said.

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, with more than 330,000 members.