



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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The Honorable Vicky J. Hartzler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

18 May 2017

Dear Representative Hartzler,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for legislation you have introduced, H.R. 2513, the “Police Officers Protecting Children Act.”

The Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act (LEOSA), enacted in 2004, provided qualified active and retired law enforcement officers with an exemption to State and local laws prohibiting the carriage of concealed firearms. There is no exemption, however, to similar Federal laws or regulation. One Federal law in particular—the Guns Free School Zones Act (GFSZA)—has created an unusual and unnecessary dilemma for the active and retired officer carrying their concealed firearms under the auspices of the LEOSA.

The GFSZA does not apply to individuals who have a State or local concealed carry permit. These permit holders can visit schools in the State or locality where their permit was issued but an off-duty law enforcement officer cannot because the officer would have no reason to obtain a concealed carry permit. Your legislation would add the LEOSA exemption to the existing exceptions to the GFSZA and ensure that an off-duty or retired officer would not place himself in legal jeopardy by attending a school event.

As a nation, we are working to make our schools safer for our children. By adding this exception, we also improve the safety of our school campuses. Law enforcement officers are never “off-duty”—they are dedicated public servants trained to respond when there is a threat to the peace or to our public safety. Your bill will help to ensure that officers do not have to choose between obeying the letter of Federal law with their duty to aid those in danger.

The FOP is proud to support this legislation. On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you for your support for law enforcement. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jim Pasco, my Senior Advisor, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

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