



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 615-202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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CONTACT: TIM RICHARDSON
202-547-8189

PROTECT AND SERVE ACT INTRODUCED IN HOUSE *Former Law Enforcement Officers in the House Work Together to Protect Police*

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, applauded today's re-introduction of H.R. 1325, the "Protect and Serve Act." The bipartisan bill was introduced by Representatives John H. Rutherford (R-FL) and Val V. Demings (D-FL) both of whom served as law enforcement officers before being elected to Congress. In addition, Representatives Thomas C. O'Halleran (D-AZ) and Peter A. Stauber (R-MN), who are also both former law enforcement, are original cosponsors of the measure.

"These Representatives know what it's like to walk a beat or respond to a call for service," said Canterbury. "They understand that our members are increasingly under fire by individuals motivated by nothing more than a desire to kill or injure a cop. Law enforcement officers, who serve their communities and put their lives on the line for fellow citizens, should not be hunted and targeted just because of the uniform that they wear."

The legislation would make it a Federal crime to target a law enforcement officer for violence. Last year, an identical bill passed the House on a 382-35 vote.

"Law enforcement is a higher calling for those who take the oath to protect and serve. It is these men and women who run toward danger to protect the public when everyone else is running away," stated Canterbury. "I am so proud of these four Representatives for stepping up and protecting their former colleagues at a time when many of our elected officials are running away from officer safety issues and I look forward to working with them and our other friends in the House to get this bill passed again."

The National Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the country with over 345,000 members.