



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20002

PATRICK YOES
National President

JIM PASCO
Executive Director

18 June 2020

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senators Peters and Cornyn,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 3987, the "Strong Communities Act."

The community-policing model is based on officers being part of the communities they police. It means that law enforcement officer can respond knowing the social context of their beat. Similarly, the public can then know and trust the officers working in their community and see them as a source of protection and assistance. Officers who are not familiar with their communities or are not perceived to be part of their communities are less effective.

Your legislation would help build on the community-policing model by establishing a grant program for local law enforcement agencies to assist in recruiting officers in their own community. The agency would use this grant program to pay for recruits to attend a law enforcement training program at an institution of higher education or a training program operated by another agency at no cost, provided that the recruit agrees to serve in an agency in their community for at least 4 years. This will help local agencies recruit candidates from their own backyard and reduce the financial burden of their education and training to be law enforcement officers. More law enforcement officers will be recruited from their communities, which we believe will help create more effective officers and safer communities.

On behalf of the more than 351,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I am proud to offer our support for this legislation. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President

