



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **POLICE MENTAL HEALTH BILL PASSES HOUSE COMMITTEE**

*FOP Crafted Bill to Improve Mental Wellness of Police*

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, was proud to announce that the House Committee on the Judiciary favorably reported H.R. 2228, the “Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act.” The bill is sponsored by Representatives Susan W. Brooks (R-IN) and Valdez V. Demings (D-FL). Representatives Douglas A. Collins (R-GA), William J. Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and David G. Reichert (R-WA) are original cosponsors.

“We helped develop this legislation late last Congress and it passed the Senate as S. 867 in May,” Canterbury said. “We’re very pleased to have worked with Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers to move this bill through Committee in an effort to improve the mental health and wellness of our nation’s police officers.”

The legislation directs the U.S. Attorney General to identify existing mental health and wellness programs, especially those administered by the U.S. Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, and then develop model policies which could be adopted by State, local and tribal law enforcement agencies. It also authorizes the establishment of pilot peer mentoring programs using Federal grants.

“Our officers wear protective clothing and other equipment to keep themselves safe from physical harm, but these officers also face challenges to their mental health and well-being. Unlike many other professions, sometimes you can't leave the job at the office,” Canterbury said. “The FOP has been a leader on mental wellness for law enforcement officers and we believe we can provide better support for the men and women behind the badge. We are proud to support the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act and look forward to getting this bill to the President's desk.”

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