



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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## **FOP National President Hails Victories for Law Enforcement in Omnibus *Greater Funding for Law Enforcement, Four Bills Included in Spending Bill***

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, is pleased with the final draft version of the FY18 omnibus appropriations bill, which increased funding across the board for law enforcement grant programs, including the hiring program administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The measure also incorporated four pieces of legislation the FOP has championed.

“We are pleased that this Congress has renewed its commitment to public safety by increasing funding for State and local law enforcement agencies through programs like the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) program and the COPS Office,” stated Canterbury. “We were also able to include four pieces of legislation into the omnibus, two of which the FOP played a critical role in: the ‘Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act’ and the ‘Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act.’”

The “Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act” will eliminate the expected family contribution for a child of a fallen public safety officer whom is awarded a Pell grant. The legislation was introduced by Senators Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA) and Patrick J. Toomey (R-PA). It is a meaningful tribute to these fallen law enforcement officers by helping their children receive a more affordable higher education. The FOP fought hard to get this bill included in the spending measure and our support was critical to its inclusion.

“Senator Casey was kind enough to call me personally to thank the FOP for everything we did to support this effort,” Canterbury said. “It’s a bill we have been pushing for many years and we’re pleased that it’s now finally law.”

The “STOP School Violence Act,” authored by Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT), reauthorizes and expands the Secure Our Schools program administered by the COPS Office. The House passed a similar bill earlier this month, but the FOP was unable to support it because it stripped the program out of the COPS Office and transferred it to a general program within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). The FOP was involved in exhaustive negotiations with senior staff in the offices of Senator Hatch, the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader before agreeing to compromise language. The provision maintains the Secure Our Schools program in the COPS Office and establishes the expansion of the program in OJP.

“This agreement would not have been possible without the steadfast leadership of Senators Hatch and especially Senator McConnell,” Canterbury said. “They understand how important the COPS Office is to law enforcement and how important it is that they administer the programs in which they have greater expertise in. These two Senators fought hard for us and we are sincerely grateful to them.”

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 335,000 members.