



## NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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**CHUCK CANTERBURY**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**JAMES O. PASCO, JR.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

10 February 2017

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

The Honorable Dean A. Heller  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator's Peters and Heller,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 322, the "Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act."

This legislation would expand existing Federal protections to the pets of domestic abuse victims and establish a grant program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture designed to assist victims of domestic violence to safely shelter their pets when they leave their abusers. Too often, domestic violence victims are reluctant to leave an abusive relationship because they cannot take their pet with them and fear that their abuser may harm the animal if they abandon it. Law enforcement officers have responded to domestic violence calls in which the victims were often just as concerned for the welfare of their pet as they were for themselves.

Domestic violence victims deserve our help and support when they leave their abusers and their recovery depends on emotional support that pets can provide. A well-loved pet can and does help people through difficult times and your bill recognizes this fact and provides this support.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I am proud to offer you and your legislation support. If I can be of any additional assistance on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Senior Advisor, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

  
Chuck Canterbury  
National President