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FOP's Collective Bargaining Bill Introduced in Senate *S. 1394, the "Public Employer-Employee Cooperation Act"*

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, is proud to announce that Senator Tammy S. Baldwin (D-WI) has introduced, S. 1394 the "Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act."

"Public safety employees--police officers and firefighters--are virtually the only class of workers left in the nation today who are denied the fundamental right to bargain collectively with their employers over wages, hours, and working conditions," Canterbury said. "We are going to change that starting today. Together with our partners at the International Association of Fire Fighters, we look forward to building support for this legislation in the days ahead."

The bill will recognize the right of public safety employees to form and join unions, and bargain collectively with their employers. The legislation would empower the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) to govern the labor-management relationship in those cases where State laws are not in substantial compliance with the bill's basic, minimal requirements. The bill specifically prohibits strikes and lockouts and would not change any State's existing right-to-work laws. It is similar to legislation passed by the House of Representatives in July 2007 and then nearly passed the Senate in 2010.

"Public safety occupations are unique, and their labor relations need to reflect that," Canterbury said. "The men and women in law enforcement who put their lives on the line every day to protect our streets and neighborhoods have a right to be involved in the decisions which affect them--something they cannot do as long as they are prohibited from exercising their rights at the bargaining table."

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 348,000 members.

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

