



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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7 September 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy P. Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin O. McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
Minority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Representatives McCarthy, Pelosi and Hoyer,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for an amendment, introduced by Representatives William J. Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and David G. Reichert (R-WA), which would increase by \$100 million the appropriations for the hiring program administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) at the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 1994, Congress established the COPS Office and, in the decade which followed, our nation experienced a significant drop in crime rates. A large part of this success was the nation's commitment to community oriented policing, particularly its hiring component which helped get more officers on the beat. Community oriented policing has been the cornerstone of our nation's policing strategy for nearly 25 years and the hiring program is the reason this strategy works.

However, today, we have less police on our streets and neighborhoods than we did even a decade ago, making the community policing strategy very difficult to pursue. It is no surprise to our profession that crime, particularly violent crime, is on the rise. There are less men and women policing our streets, keeping the peace and interacting positively with the communities they protect. If we are serious about stemming the rise in crime and if we remain committed to the community policing strategy, then we must continue to fund the COPS hiring program.

It is for these reasons we urge you and all Members of Congress to vote in support of the Reichert-Pascrell amendment providing resources to the COPS hiring program.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I appreciate you considering our views on this important issue. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Senior Advisor Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

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