



## NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

14 February 2019

The Honorable Cory A. Booker  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert J. Portman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Booker and Portman,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 473, the "Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act." This legislation would expand the definition of "law enforcement officer" for retirement benefits to include all Federal law enforcement officers. It would also save taxpayers' money and enhance public safety and national security.

Due to their high level of training and the dangerous nature of the profession, Congress rightfully determined that Federal law enforcement officers should receive enhanced salary and retirement benefits compared to other Federal employees. However, not all Federal law enforcement officers classified as GS-0083 police officers are. In fact, 30,000 of these dedicated Federal law enforcement officers do not receive these benefits. Congress has even granted LEO status to Air Traffic Controllers and many employees of the Bureau of Prisons (such as cooks), whose primary duties are not law enforcement related.

These dedicated men and women put their lives on the line as law enforcement officers for different agencies including Department of Defense and Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, FBI Police, U.S. Postal Police, Federal Protective Service, National Institute of Health, U.S. Mint, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They serve as our Federal government's first responders, are asked to face the same hazards as their State and local counterparts and, when one of them falls in the line of duty, their names are added to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial here in Washington, D.C.

Congress should pass this legislation and recognize that these GS-0083 officers are as highly trained as their colleagues with LEO status. Many attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and their job is no less dangerous. These officers have been seriously injured and even killed in the line of duty. Criminals who assault civilian law enforcement officers do not discriminate based on their salary and retirement status and neither should this nation who is greatly served by their dedication and sacrifice. Most importantly, an investment in these

officers will pay unquantifiable dividends in national security and public safety, for the value of highly trained and experienced law enforcement officers is immeasurable.

On behalf of more than 345,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for introducing this legislation. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Chuck Canterbury  
National President