



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

30 April 2019

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy,

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for S. 1231, the “Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Reauthorization Act.” The measure would permanently reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) program that we worked together to create in 1998—more than two decades ago.

This program began with a very simple goal: to increase the number of law enforcement officers wearing soft body armor by providing matching Federal funding to State and local law enforcement agencies purchasing this equipment. Your legislation would permanently authorize this vital and life-saving program. The brave men and women in law enforcement will always need anti-ballistic protection and the BVP program has proven to be one of the most successful officer safety programs in the Federal government. Since 1999, more than 13,000 jurisdictions received a total of \$467 million in Federal funds for the purchase of nearly 1.35 million vests.

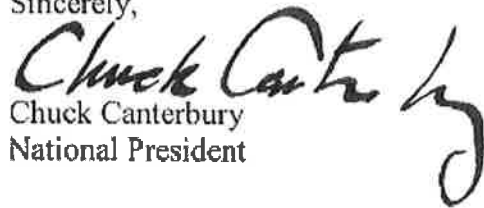
We recognize that there is no legislation, no government program, no grant or public-private partnership that can erase the sad fact that law enforcement officers will die. They will die in the line of duty at the hands of armed and violent criminals, who are increasingly targeting law enforcement officers with violence. The BVP grant program can document more than 3,100 officers whose lives were saved because they were wearing soft body armor. How many other government programs can document their success so starkly?

While we know there is no way to end the deadly risks inherent in a law enforcement career, we must also do everything possible to ensure that officers who put their lives on the line everyday also put on a vest. Body armor is one of the most important pieces of equipment an officer can have and often means the difference between life and death. It is critical that this program be permanently reauthorized so that it can continue to make these vests available to more officers in every region of the country. We urge its swift passage.

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

On behalf of the more than 348,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for working with us for the last 20 years to make sure the men and women who protect us have the protection they need. You have been a stalwart supporter of law enforcement and officer safety throughout your career and we are very proud and grateful to have your continued support of this lifesaving program. If I can be of assistance, please 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