



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

17 May 2019

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

Dear Senator Toomey,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for S. 1508, the "Thin Blue Line Act."

The "Thin Blue Line Act" would expand the list of aggravating factors in death penalty determinations for those who target, kill, or attempt to kill a person who is a law enforcement or other public safety officer. Law enforcement officers have always faced threats while on duty, but within the past few years, officers have become a target for violence solely because of the uniform they wear.

So far this year, 118 officers have been shot in the line of duty, 20 of whom were killed. By our estimation, seven officers this year have been shot from ambush, three of whom were slain. Last year, 251 officers were shot in the line of duty and 51 were killed. Of these, 22 officers were shot in an ambush attack, five of whom died.

Those in our profession have always been in harm's way. It is our job to protect others but it should not be "part of the job" to be a target of someone who is looking to simply kill a cop. We do not accept the fact that our uniforms alone make us targets.

On behalf of more than 348,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for introducing this legislation to protect the men and women in law enforcement. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Senior Advisor, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President