



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

11 February 2019

The Honorable Brian K. Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Abigail D. Spanberger
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Fitzpatrick and Spanberger,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for H.R. 489, the “Strengthening Homeland Security, Intelligence, and Essential Law Enforcement Departments (SHIELD) Act,” which will prioritize existing appropriations to fund military and law enforcement personnel any time there is a lapse of funding or if the public debt ceiling is reached.

In the event of a lapse in appropriations, the “SHIELD Act” would direct the Secretary of Treasury to make funds available to pay these critical employees who will report for work regardless of whether appropriations to their Department have been made. If this provision had been in place, our ATF, Secret Service, FBI, and many other law enforcement officers, all of whom *must* report for duty, would not have missed their paychecks during the most recent government shutdown.

This legislation also ensures that in the event the public debt ceiling is reached, payment will be made to members of the Armed Forces in addition to critical Federal law enforcement officers who remain on duty.

We are grateful to you both for offering this legislation. The men and women who represent the Federal law enforcement community deserve to be protected, as they protect us every day, and your leadership on this matter is appreciated.

On behalf of the more than 345,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you again for supporting law enforcement and their families. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Executive Director, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President