



**NATIONAL
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

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PATRICK YOES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JIM PASCO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

27 September 2019

The Honorable Sherrod C. Brown
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for your bill, S. 2552, "Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act."

Due to the physical demands of their profession, law enforcement and other public safety officers often retire earlier compared to those in other occupations. In fact, many local, State and Federal agencies have mandatory retirement ages for their officers. These retiring officers may lose their employer provided health insurance upon or shortly after their retirement—a time when they are years away from being eligible for Medicare.

Your legislation remedies this problem by allowing law enforcement and other public safety professionals the option to buy into Medicare at the age of 50. The Secretary of Health and Human Services will establish the premiums based on the risk pool for those public safety officers who opt into the program as a separate population, but they would remain eligible for tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies to help them purchase insurance. When the officer reaches the age of 65, he or she is seamlessly entered into the traditional Medicare program.

We believe this legislation addresses a very real and critical need for the men and women who served their communities as public safety officers by providing them with a bridge of coverage following their retirement until they reach the age of 65. On behalf of the more than 349,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you for your leadership on law enforcement issues. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Executive Director, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President