



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

12 May 2017

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 support for legislation which you have introduced, S. 1087, the "Lifesaving Gear for Police Act."

Your bill will restore the important equipment programs for State and local law enforcement and roll back the limitations imposed by Executive Order in FY2016 on the types of equipment available to law enforcement. The recommendations pursuant to Executive Order 13688 prohibited the acquisition of some specialized public safety equipment and made it much more difficult, if not impossible, for smaller jurisdictions to use existing grant programs to procure common-places law enforcement equipment.

The ostensible purpose of the Executive Order was to address overwrought, media-driven concerns that our nation's law enforcement officers appeared to be "militarized." Unfortunately, there was little to no thought given to the important utility these pieces of equipment have in protecting the lives of responding officers as well as the public.

The FOP believes these equipment programs to be vital to our local and State law enforcement agencies and we are grateful for your leadership on this issue.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you for your support of law enforcement. Please feel free to contact me or my Senior Advisor, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office if we can be of any additional help.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President