



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

25 February 2019

The Honorable John H. Rutherford
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Val V. Demings
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Rutherford and Demings,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 1325, the "Protect and Serve Act," which you have re-introduced. This legislation is a legislative priority for the FOP.

The legislation would impose Federal penalties on individuals who deliberately target local, State or Federal law enforcement officers with violence. Already this year 55 officers have been shot in the line of duty, 10 of whom were killed. Four officers this year have been ambushed, one of whom was 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 were slain. Last spring, Sergeant Noel Ramirez and Deputy Sheriff Taylor Lindsey of the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Department in Florida were having lunch together at a restaurant when they were assassinated by a man who killed them before turning the weapon on himself.

Attacks like this are increasing. A December 2017 study by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, which examined law enforcement officer fatalities from 2010-2016, found that 20% of ambushed officers were seated in their patrol cars and 56% of officers killed in an ambush were not on a call or engaged in any enforcement activity. Many of these officers were simply eating, sitting on post, or were targeted and killed while at their home or on their way home.

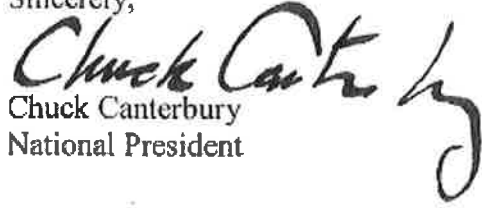
A May 2017 report issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the motivations of cop-killers revealed that many of these attacks are motivated by a hatred or animus toward law enforcement officers. This same report stated that these killers felt that the communities and elected officials no longer supported their officers and they would not face serious penalties for their actions. We must change this perspective and we believe that H.R. 1325, the "Protect and Serve Act," will do just that.

As former law enforcement officers, you both know the risks that come with the job. But no officer should be at risk while simply sitting in his patrol car, having lunch with a colleague or heading for home at the end of a shift. We appreciate your support for law enforcement officers and we promise to work hard to get this legislation through the House again this year.

— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —

On behalf of the more than 345,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you for continued leadership and support for officer safety. If I can provide any additional support for this bill or on any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington, D.C. 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 at the end.

Chuck Canterbury
National President