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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

October 22, 2002

Mr. Steve Young
National President
Fraternal Order of Police
309 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter of October 17, 2002, on the "The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, S.2480." I was proud to work with you and the brave men and women of the Fraternal Order of Police on this important legislation in the 107th Congress.

I was honored to introduce the top legislative priority of the FOP, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, in the Senate. As a former State prosecutor, I know that law enforcement officers are never "off-duty." They are dedicated public servants trained to uphold the law and keep the peace. When there is a threat to the peace or to our public safety, law enforcement officers are sworn to answer that call. The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act enables law enforcement officers across the nation to be armed and prepared when they answer that call, no matter where, when, or in what form it comes.

With the leadership of the FOP, we garnered 41 Democratic and Republican Senators to cosponsor the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, including a bipartisan majority of members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This strong bipartisan support led to the first ever Senate hearing on the need for federal legislation for law enforcement officers to carry firearms across state lines. This legislative progress once again proves that the FOP is a leading voice of those who dedicate their lives to protecting and serving our communities.

Steve, in particular, I want to thank for your dedication on this matter. Your testimony at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing was extraordinary. You led all of us to focus on this measure to help make our communities safer and protect those who are sworn to guard and serve the American public.

Senator Patrick Leahy

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With the strong legislative groundwork that we have laid in the 107th Congress, it is my hope that we can quickly consider and pass this legislation in the next Congress to make our communities safer and to better protect law enforcement officers and their families. I look forward to working with you, Jim Pasco, Tim Richardson, and the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to enact the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act into law.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY

Chairman