

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

December 3, 2003

Major Chuck Canterbury
National President
Fraternal Order of Police
309 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-5701

Dear Chuck,

I want to thank you and the Fraternal Order of Police for your leadership during Senate-House negotiations of the "Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act." Without your perseverance and willingness to help find bipartisan compromise language, our bill would never have become law.

Heart attacks and strokes are a reality of the high-pressure jobs of our public safety officers. We owe their families our gratitude, our respect and our help in their time of need.

I was disappointed that we were not able to pass this as part of the Amber Alert legislative package earlier this year and, again, when we were unable to do so this summer, as leaders in the House of Representatives had assured us. Officers and firefighters in Vermont and around the country can now be assured that this long overdue improvement in Public Safety Officers Benefits has finally been achieved.

I look forward to working with you, Jim Pasco, Chris Granberg, Tim Richardson, and the members of the Fraternal Order of Police on future legislation to make our communities safer and better protect police officers and their families.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



Chuck - Great going!

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