



25 January 2007

The Honorable Jim Ramstad
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Ramstad,

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to thank you for introducing H.R. 688, the “State and Local Law Enforcement Discipline, Accountability and Due Process Act.” This bill is one of our top legislative priorities.

The FOP strongly supports your efforts to have this important piece of legislation enacted into law. Law enforcement officers have one of the toughest and most dangerous jobs in the nation. They alone are charged with keeping our streets and neighborhoods safe from crime. Because of the enormous responsibility that comes with a badge, law enforcement officers are held to a much higher standard of personal and professional conduct—as well they should be. However, this often subjects police officers to false accusations, often motivated by nothing more than a desire to disrupt law enforcement activities.

The procedures for investigating these charges are generally capricious and haphazard, and the rights of the officer are often the last thing to be considered. The men and women behind the badge deserve the protections that this bill affords, and we look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure its passage.

You have long been a friend of law enforcement and of rank-and-file officers in particular. You know how important this legislation is to our members and all of America’s men and women in blue. On behalf of the 325,000 members of the FOP, I want to thank you again for introducing this important bill. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chuck Canterbury
National President