



## NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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**CHUCK CANTERBURY**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**JAMES O. PASCO, JR.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

21 November 2013

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin,

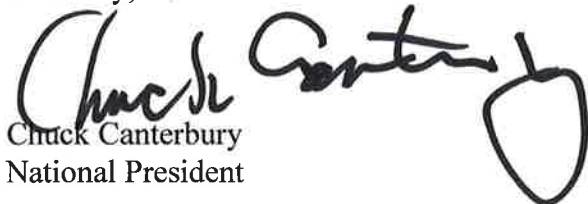
I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for your amendment, S. Amdt. 2133, to S. 1197, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014."

The language in this provision would establish a "National Blue Alert Act," which would mirror the current "Amber Alert" system by using existing communications networks to immediately disseminate sensitive information to appropriate law enforcement and other public agencies when an officer goes missing, is severely injured or is killed in the line of duty. Eighteen States already have some form of a Blue Alert system. This patchwork of States leaves large gaps in the system which criminals can use to their advantage. A national program is vital to fill those gaps and support for law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line daily.

A criminal willing to kill or attempt to a kill a law enforcement officer is extremely dangerous to the public at large. Once the officer has been killed or injured, the assailant immediately becomes that much more desperate, posing an even greater risk to the safety of the public. Large scale manhunts for these criminals are often costly both in terms of dollars and time. With the assistance of a National Blue Alert, information about an officer's attacker can be quickly spread to the public at large, who will be in a position to not only provide law enforcement with information leading to the arrest of the suspect, but also to take steps to keep themselves safe from a violent predator.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of Fraternal Order of Police, I would like to thank you for introducing S. Amdt. 2133, and look forward to working with you to get it included in S. 1197. If I can be of any further assistance in moving this legislation forward, please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

  
Chuck Canterbury  
National President