



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.E.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002  
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 615-202-547-8190

**CHUCK CANTERBURY**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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

11 April 2014

The Honorable Amy J. Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

I am writing on behalf of the 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support of S. 2254, the "COPS Improvements Act of 2014".

In 1994, Congress established the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and, in the decade which followed, our nation experienced a significant drop in crime rates. A large part of this success was the nation's commitment to community oriented policing, particularly its hiring component which helped get more officers on the beat. This approach was validated by a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of the COPS program which stated that: "COPS-funded increases in sworn officers per capita were associated with declines in the rates of total index crimes, violent crimes, and property crime."

Despite this clear evidence supporting the COPS program, it has come under attack in recent years and its budget consistently reduced. These budget reductions, coupled with the hard economic times, have left State and local governments struggling to keep officers on the beat. In some localities mass layoffs put the public at grave risk as there are not enough officers to serve their communities. It is a choice that has caused drastic cuts in police departments across the nation. The legislation you have introduced will reinvigorate the COPS program—a program we all know to be effective—and the FOP is proud to support your effort.

Your bill will establish the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services as a distinct entity within the U.S. Department of Justice and will reauthorize hiring programs for three specific purposes—community policing officers, local counterterrorism officers, and school resource officers. The bill also reauthorizes funds for technology grants and community prosecutors.

The COPS program and the community policing approach are and should continue to be an important part of our national crime-fighting strategy. The Fraternal Order of Police is proud to

support this legislation and your efforts to get it passed. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco at my Washington, DC, office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "C" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that ends in a small loop.

Chuck Canterbury  
National President