



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

8 January 2015

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy,

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for S. 125, the "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act." The measure would reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) program that we worked together to create in 1998.

This program has a very simple goal – it proposes to increase the number of law enforcement officers wearing soft body armor by providing matching Federal funding to State and local law enforcement agencies of any size seeking to purchase armor vests for use by their officers. Your legislation would extend this program's authorization through 2020.

There is no legislation, no government program, no grant or public-private partnership that can erase the sad fact that law enforcement officers will die. They will die in the line of duty at the hands of armed and violent criminals. And now, more than ever, we see our law enforcement officers in the crosshairs of these criminals. But this program can document more than 3,100 officers whose lives were saved because they were wearing soft body armor. How many other government programs can document their success so starkly?

While we know there is no way to end the deadly risks inherent in a law enforcement career, we must also do everything possible to ensure that officers who put their lives on the line everyday also put on a vest. Body armor is one of the most important pieces of equipment an officer can have and often means the difference between life and death and this program will help make these vests available to more officers in every region of the country. We urge its swift passage.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for your ongoing support of law enforcement and this important program. You have been a stalwart supporter of law enforcement and officer safety throughout your career and we are grateful to

have your continued support of this lifesaving legislation. If I can be of assistance, please contact me or Executive director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "y" at the end.

Chuck Canterbury
National President