



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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30 March 2016

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Toomey,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S.1162, the "Federal Law Enforcement Self-Defense and Protection Act of 2015." This legislation will ensure that Federal law enforcement officers remain able to ensure their own safety and the safety of their families during a covered furlough.

Today, our nation's law enforcement officers are a target for hate and violence. The number of violent criminal encounters that law enforcement officers face is steadily on the rise. From 2008 through 2011, a total of 8,587 law enforcement officers were assaulted. In 2012 alone, 1,857 law enforcement officers were assaulted resulting in 206 officers sustaining serious injuries. In 2014, law enforcement suffered 47 deaths by gunfire, 2015 saw 46 officers shot in the line of duty and so far in 2016, a total of 62 officers have been shot, 14 of which were killed. These serious violent crimes against police officers do not simply cease to exist during a covered furlough. It is imperative that law enforcement officers are able to defend themselves so they can carry out their pivotal missions and ensure their own personal safety and the safety of their families whether they are on or off duty.

Those in our profession have always been in harm's way and, with violent acts against law enforcement officers on the rise, it is of vital importance that officers are always able to protect themselves and their families. It is law enforcement's job to protect others but it is our duty to ensure the safety and protection of those officers who put their lives on the line every day whether they are on-duty or off-duty.

On behalf of more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for introducing this legislation and amendment. 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,

  
Chuck Canterbury  
National President

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