



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

27 April 2016

The Honorable John Cornyn III
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senators Cornyn and Leahy,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 2577, the “Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016.”


This reauthorization bill will enhance and protect the rights of crime victims throughout the United States through FY2021. The “Justice for All Reauthorization Act” would ensure that crime victims are informed of their rights and provided the appropriate contact for the Office of the Victims’ Rights Ombudsman in the Department of Justice (DOJ). The bill would also expand eligibility for post-conviction DNA testing in criminal proceedings (except in death penalty cases) and would enhance the Debbie Smith Backlog Grant Program by helping eliminate the DNA backlog nationwide. This legislation further helps victims of sexual assault by requiring that they are notified of the availability of free rape exams and would increase funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement grant program.

Furthermore, the legislation would reinstate the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) program requirement that States develop and annually update, a comprehensive strategic plan detailing how the Byrne-JAG funds would be used to improve the administration of the criminal justice system. Strategic plans, developed in consultation with local governments, as well as all sectors of the criminal justice system, will not only enable states to effectively demonstrate what programs Byrne-JAG funds statewide, but also how important that funding is to a multitude of criminal justice programs throughout each state.

Finally, this bill reauthorizes funding at current levels for the Crime Victims Legal Assistance grants and the Crime Victims Notification grants. Both grants programs have been invaluable in ensuring that crime victims receive the help and support they need as their cases move through the level process.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I applaud you for your continued efforts on this issue and look forward to working with your staff to move this bill. If you need any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington, D.C. 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