



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

6 February 2017

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Honorable David B. McKinley
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McKinley,

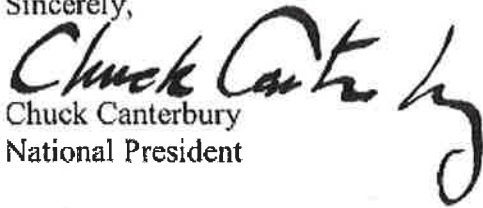
I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for H.R. 613, the "Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Correctional Officer Self-Protection Act." This legislation addresses a key officer safety issue at the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

Existing regulations at the BOP prohibit their officers from carrying or storing their personal firearms at the Federal facility where they work or anywhere on its grounds, even if they can lawfully carry a concealed firearm while off-duty. For BOP officers, this is a genuine safety issue as they often find themselves targets of retaliatory attacks, be it from allies of the criminals they supervise or even former inmates. In February 2013, Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati-Casanas, an 11-year veteran of the BOP, serving at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, was shot and killed in retaliation for his investigations into cell phone smuggling at the facility. In January 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice announced indictments against 9 people involved in his murder.

Law enforcement officers, and especially correctional officers, who have a much more direct, personal interaction with violent convicts, are at risk on and off the job. However, they are especially vulnerable if their employer's policy makes it impossible to protect themselves when they travel to and from work. Only 33 of the existing BOP facilities have a secure storage area and this legislation will require the Director of the Bureau to ensure that *every* Federal BOP facility has a safe and secure area in which officers can store their firearms during their shift.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I am proud to support this legislation and we will be working for its passage. If I can be of any additional help, or if you need additional information about this issue, please feel free to contact me or Jim Pasco, Senior Advisor to the National President, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,



Chuck Canterbury
National President