



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
20 APRIL 2016**

**CONTACT: TIM RICHARDSON
(202) 547-8189**

VEST BILL PASSES HOUSE COMMITTEE!!!

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, welcomed news that the House Committee on the Judiciary considered and favorably reported S. 125, the “Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program Reauthorization Act,” on a voice vote. Representative Jason E. Chaffetz (R-UT) was the only dissenting vote. The bill passed the Senate 99-0 almost one year ago.

“This bill, introduced by Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), is a key piece of the FOP’s Officer Safety Agenda and we’re pleased that the Judiciary Committee has finally acted on this bill,” Canterbury said. “We’re very grateful for the strong and consistent support from Senator Leahy and we intend to ask the Speaker to bring the measure to the floor for a final vote soon.”

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program provides matching Federal funds to State and local law enforcement agencies allowing them to purchase or upgrade the soft body armor worn by their officers. More than one million vests have been bought through this program which has greatly increased the safety of officers on the beat. It was also a key recommendation of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The bill, which would reauthorize the program through FY2020, now goes to the House floor.

The first certified “save”—that is, a shooting that would have resulted in the death of an officer but for the use of soft body armor—was in December 1975. Since that time, more than 3,100 officers have been certified as saved by their bullet-resistant vest.

“Six officers have had their lives saved since mid- October thanks to the BVP program. How many programs can quantify their success so starkly?” said Canterbury. “That’s 3,100 law enforcement officers that go home to their families and 3,100 names that will not have be inscribed on the Wall of Remembrance at Judiciary Square; this program saves lives.”

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 330,000 members.

— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —