



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10 MAY 2016**

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VEST BILL POISED TO BECOME LAW!!!

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, welcomed news that the House passed S. 125, the “Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program Reauthorization Act,” by voice vote under a suspension of the rules. The bill passed the Senate 99-0 during National Police Week in 2015 and now the House will send it to the President’s desk to become law.

“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 House sent the bill to President Obama for his signature,” Canterbury said. “We’re very grateful for the strong and consistent support from Senator Leahy and for the help from Representative Sensenbrenner and the House leadership to move this bipartisan bill in the House.”

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. The report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing made a key recommendation for the reauthorization of the BVP program. The legislation passed today reauthorizes the program through 2020.

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. How many programs can quantify their success so starkly?” said Canterbury. “That’s 3,100 officers that go home to their families and 3,100 names that will not have been 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 —