



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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POLICE MENTAL HEALTH BILL POISED TO BECOME LAW ***FOP CRAFTED BILL IS FIRST TO IMPROVE MENTAL WELLNESS OF POLICE***

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, praised the news that H.R. 2228, the “Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act” cleared the Senate and will be sent to the desk of President Donald J. Trump to be signed into law. The bill is sponsored by Representatives Susan W. Brooks (R-IN) and Valdez V. Demings (D-FL). The Senate version was championed by Senators Joe Donnelly (D-IN) and Todd Young (R-IN).

“I want to thank Representative Brooks and Demings who have fought every day for this bill. This also could not have happened without the sponsors of the Senate bill, Senators Donnelly and Young who originally came to us last Congress with ideas for the bill we saw pass today,” stated Canterbury. “The passion these Representatives and Senators show for the mental health and wellness of our law enforcement officers should be the standard for every member of Congress.”

The legislation directs the U.S. Attorney General to identify existing mental health and wellness programs, especially those administered by the U.S. Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, and then develop model policies which could be adopted by State, local and tribal law enforcement agencies. It also authorizes the establishment of pilot peer mentoring programs using Federal grants.

“As we get closer to Christmas, it is important that we take time to think about the men and women of law enforcement who protect us every day by putting themselves between us and danger,” Canterbury said. “Every law enforcement officer knows the amount of stress the job puts on their mental well-being. Our police routinely see some of the worst society has to offer. It is time we take care of those who watch over and protect us in a job that seems to become more thankless every day.”

The Senate passed another FOP supported bill, H.R. 2142, the “International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology (INTERDICT) Act.” This will also go the desk of President Trump to be signed into law.

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