



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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8 February 2017

The Honorable Peter T. King
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative King,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for H.R. 964, the "Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act." This legislation would expand the definition of "law enforcement officer" for salary and retirement benefits to include all Federal law enforcement officers. It would also save taxpayers money and enhance public safety and national security.

Due to their high level of training and the dangerous nature of the profession, Congress rightfully determined that Federal law enforcement officers should receive enhanced salary and retirement benefits compared to other Federal employees. However, Federal law enforcement officers classified as GS-0083 police officers were not initially covered. Over time, Congress has partially corrected this injustice by granting GS-0083 officers in some agencies, law enforcement officer (LEO) status for salary and retirement benefits, but today nearly 30,000 of these dedicated Federal law enforcement officers do not receive these benefits. Congress has even granted LEO status to Air Traffic Controllers and many employees of the Bureau of Prisons (such as cooks), whose primary duties are not law enforcement related.

These dedicated men and women put their lives on the line as law enforcement officers for different agencies including the Department of Defense (DoD) and Armed Services, Veterans Affairs (VA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Postal Police, Federal Protective Service (FPS), National Institute of Health (NIH), US Mint, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP). They serve as our Federal government's first responders, are asked to face the same hazards as their State and local counterparts and, when one of them falls in the line of duty, their names are added to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial here in Washington, DC.

Congress should pass this legislation and recognize that these GS-0083 officers are as highly trained as their colleagues with LEO status. Many attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and their job is no less dangerous. These officers have been seriously injured and even killed in the line of duty. Criminals who assault civilian law enforcement officers do not discriminate based on their salary and retirement status and neither should this nation who is

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greatly served by their dedication and sacrifice. Most importantly, an investment in these officers will pay unquantifiable dividends in national security and public safety, for the value of highly trained and experienced law enforcement officers is immeasurable.

On behalf of more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for introducing this legislation and amendment. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Senior Advisor, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,



Chuck Canterbury
National President