



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PATRICK YOES NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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21 September 2021

The Honorable Darren M. Soto  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Soto,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to ask you, to cosponsor H.R 3079, the "Protect and Serve Act."

In response to the surge of violence directed at law enforcement officers in the form of calculated and ambush-style attacks, a bipartisan group of former law enforcement officers introduced this legislation, which would impose Federal penalties on individuals who deliberately target law enforcement officers with violence. In 2018, the Committee on the Judiciary voted unanimously to report this legislation favorably and soon after, it was passed by the full House on an overwhelming 382-35 vote.

On 30 August 2021, deputies with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office were conducting a traffic stop in West Melbourne near Interstate 95. While conducting the stop and conversing roadside with the driver and another passenger, a deputy requested the passenger in the backseat to exit the vehicle. While exiting, the passenger pulled out a hidden rifle and opened fire, ambushing the deputies. One deputy was shot before the suspect's gun was jammed. The shooter then struck a deputy repeatedly in the head and face with the butt of his rifle. The deputies eventually returned fire and killed the shooter.

So far this year, 220 officers have been shot in the line of duty, 40 of whom were killed. The lethality of these attacks would be much greater but for the dramatic improvements in medical trauma science and anti-ballistic technology. Eighty-three officers have been shot in 67 separate ambush-style attacks, which has resulted in 20 officers being killed by gunfire. The 148% increase of ambush-style attacks from this time in 2020 is another stark reminder that our law enforcement officers are not just in harm's way due to the dangerous nature of their profession, but that they are the targets of cowardly individuals whose sole motivation is to injure or kill a law enforcement officer.

Ambush-style attacks and violence targeting law enforcement officers have been steadily increasing in recent years. A report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation concluded: "While the overall number of officers who were feloniously killed was declining, the percentage of officers feloniously killed during surprise attacks was increasing." A December 2017 study by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, which examined law enforcement officer fatalities from 2010-2016, found that 20% of ambushed officers were seated in their patrol cars and 56% of officers killed in

an ambush were not on a call or engaged in any enforcement activity. Many of these officers were simply eating, sitting on post, or were targeted and killed while at their home or on their way home.

In light of these chilling facts, we are asking you to cosponsor H.R. 3079 to address the national problem of ambushes and unprovoked attacks on our nation's law enforcement officers particularly in Florida, which has had ten officers shot, three by ambush. No officer should be at risk of being targeted while simply sitting in their patrol car, standing post, or heading home at the end of a shift. When a member of the public calls for help, we answer that call. We are asking for your help now and urge you to cosponsor this bill so that we can send it to the House floor for a vote.

On behalf of the more than 364,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for considering the FOP's urgent request to cosponsor H.R. 3079. If I can provide any additional information about this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Yoes", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Yoes  
National President

**cc:** Bobby Jenkins, President, Florida State FOP Lodge