



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PATRICK YOES NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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8 August 2023

The Honorable Summer L. Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lee,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to ask you, as a Member who lost an officer to violence in the line of duty, to cosponsor H.R. 743, the "Protect and Serve Act."

On 6 February, Officers Sean L. Sluganski and Charles Thomas, Jr. were dispatched in response to a 911 call involving a man who had become aggressive with his mother in her home. The officers identified the subject on a street in the neighborhood and attempted to make contact, but they were ignored until Officer Sluganski got out of his police vehicle. The man produced a concealed firearm and shot Officer Sluganski to death and injured Officer Thomas before fleeing the scene. The killer, who had been shot in the leg, entered a convenience store and exchanged gunfire with a third officer before being taken into custody. The Allegheny District Attorney is seeking the death penalty for Officer Sluganski's murderer.

In response to the surge of violence targeting law enforcement officers in the form of calculated and ambush-style attacks, like the kind which resulted in Officer Sluganski's death, the FOP is urging the House to consider legislation that would make it a Federal crime, in certain limited circumstances, to deliberately target law enforcement officers with violence. In 2018, this same bill passed in the House on an overwhelming 382-35 vote. Your predecessor, Representative Michael F. Doyle, voted in support of the legislation.

So far this year, 81 officers have been shot in ambush-style attacks and 14 officers, including your Officer Sluganski, were killed. This is a 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 also the targets of violent 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 May 2019 report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) concluded: "While the overall number of officers who were feloniously killed was declining, the percentage of officers feloniously killed during

surprise attacks was increasing.”<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

Considering these chilling facts and the loss of your Officer Sluganski, we are asking you to cosponsor H.R. 743 to address the national problem of ambushes and unprovoked attacks on our nation’s law enforcement officers. 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 once again send it to the House floor for a vote.

On behalf of the more than 367,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for considering the FOP’s urgent request to cosponsor H.R. 743. 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 initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patrick Yoes  
National President

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<sup>1</sup> <https://info.publicintelligence.net/FBI-AmbushesUnprovokedAttacks.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter/RIC/Publications/cops-w0858-pub.pdf>