



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PATRICK YOES NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JIM PASCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

328 Massachusetts Ave NE | Washington DC 20002

(202) 547-8189 | www.fop.net | legislative@fop.net

2 November 2023

The Honorable James V. Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Panetta,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to respectfully request that you cosponsor H.R. 5798, the "Protecting Our Nation's Capital Emergency Act."

In April of this year, you voted in favor of H.J. Res. 42, a resolution strongly supported by the FOP. This resolution disapproved of the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act (CPJRAA) passed by the D.C. City Council and blocked its implementation. This measure passed the House on a bipartisan 229-189 vote and the Senate adopted the resolution on a similarly bipartisan 56-43 vote. Regrettably, the resolution was vetoed by President Biden, and the House fell short of an override effort.

The CPJRAA stripped away the right of officers serving the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to bargain collectively with the city over disciplinary procedures—a right that every other city agency still has. It also repealed the requirement that the MPD must commence discipline against their officers within 90 business days, which will result in abusively long disciplinary investigations that violate the Constitutional rights of these officers. The CPJRAA also provides for the disclosure of disciplinary records—including personally identifiable information—potentially placing these officers in jeopardy.

The "Protecting Our Nation's Capital Emergency Act," would remove these most egregious and harmful provisions in the CPJRAA—provisions that the House and the Senate were united in opposing. The bill would restore the collective bargaining rights, non-disclosure protections, and disciplinary protocols of MPD officers that were lost in the implementation of the CPJRAA. This legislation is of great importance to the men and women of MPD and the safety of the residents, visitors, and workers in our nation's capital.

On behalf of the more than 373,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to let you know how much we appreciated your support for H.J. Res. 42 earlier this year, and, because of that support, I hope you will consider cosponsoring H.R. 5798. If I can provide any additional information about this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President