



May 28, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of more than one million fire and emergency service personnel and more than 800,000 law enforcement officers, our organizations urge you to bring the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act (S. 930) to the Senate Floor for a final vote with all dispatch. We know you agree that this legislation is critical and, simply put, getting this to the President’s desk is the right thing to do.

Our nation’s first responders routinely place themselves in imminently dangerous situations, risking their health and safety while serving our communities. When we lose a brother or sister first responder in the line of duty, we cannot allow their families to be left behind. Just one week ago, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved S. 930 on a 21-0 roll call vote. In doing so, the Committee recognized the need to amend the Public Safety Officers Benefits (PSOB) program to ensure we support the survivors of first responders who succumb to, or suffer profound and permanent, cancer-related injuries.

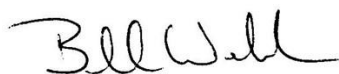
First responders are routinely exposed to carcinogens while performing their duties. Fire fighters, EMS personnel, and law enforcement officers are frequently exposed to toxic chemicals in structural and wildfire smoke, hazardous materials incidents, and even narcotics investigations. While the PSOB program recognizes public safety officers who are affected by 9/11-related cancer, PSOB does not recognize “traditional” occupational cancer deaths among our members. These fallen public safety officers’ survivors are thus forced to struggle to make ends meet without their loved ones’ salaries or benefits.

Countless widows and widowers are now maxing out credit cards and incurring massive amounts of debt simply because the PSOB program has forgotten them. Congress must right this wrong

and clearly state that cancer deaths are line-of-duty deaths. S. 930/H.R. 1719 is a crucial step to ensure that we stand with our fallen heroes' survivors and recognize their service. S. 930/H.R. 1719 is a commonsense bill that fulfills the solemn promise from our nation to never forget its heroes. The strong bipartisan, bicameral support for the bill is yet another indication that it is an effective solution and urgently needed aid for so many families. The bipartisan support for S. 930 is especially clear when considering that nearly every member of the Judiciary has joined onto S. 930 as a cosponsor; in addition to unanimously voting the bill out of committee last week.

Our organizations thank you for your dedication to our members and their families. Please swiftly bring this bill to the Senate Floor for a full vote so that we can help the survivors of fallen fire fighters, EMS personnel, and law enforcement officers lead a more secure and dignified life following their unimaginable losses. It is long overdue.

Sincerely,



Bill Webb  
Executive Director  
Congressional Fire Services Institute



Chief John S. Butler  
President  
International Association of Fire Chiefs



Patrick Yoes  
National President  
Fraternal Order of Police



Chief Edward "Loy" Senter, Jr.  
President  
Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association



Wade Carpenter  
President  
International Association of Chiefs of Police



Victor Stagnaro  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Fallen Firefighter Foundation



Edward A. Kelly  
General President  
International Association of Fire Fighters



James T. Pauley  
President and CEO  
National Fire Protection Association



Steven W. Hirsch  
Chair  
National Volunteer Fire Council