



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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PATRICK YOES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JIM PASCO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

9 September 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Bacon
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Bacon and Cuellar,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for H.R. 3327, the "Public Safety Retirees Healthcare Protection Act," which would update the Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) Retirees Act in current Federal law.

In 2006, Congress enacted the HELPS Retirees Act, which provided a modest tax benefit to help retired public safety officers afford health insurance by allowing the use, on a pre-tax basis, of up to \$3,000 annually from their pension funds (including defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans) to pay for premiums on health care and long-term care insurance. The FOP was proud to have played a leading role in developing this legislation to help address the rising health care costs faced by many of our retired members. Because of the physical demands of their profession, law enforcement and other public safety officers often retire earlier than other occupations. In fact, many local, State and Federal agencies have mandatory retirement ages for their officers. In these instances, retired officers may lose their employer-provided health insurance upon or shortly after their retirement--a time when they are years away from being eligible for Medicare. This, coupled with the fact that law enforcement and other public safety officers face greater health care needs than other professions because of the hazards they faced in the line of duty, forces them to spend a considerable amount of their limited income on health insurance premiums. Many retired public safety officers were able to take advantage of this benefit.

However, the amount of the benefit, which was set in 2006, has not kept up with the rising costs of healthcare and insurance. To address this issue, the legislation you have introduced would increase the pre-tax benefit amount from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per year.

On behalf of the more than 382,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for your leadership on this issue. If I can be of any help or provide additional information in support of 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

cc: Anthony Conner, President, Nebraska State Lodge
John J. Francavilla, National Trustee, Nebraska State Lodge
Clint McNear, President, Texas State Lodge
Ken Gardner, National Trustee, Texas State Lodge

