



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PATRICK YOES NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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29 April 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Grassley and Coons,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 4007, the "Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act," which directs the U.S. Department of Justice to develop a state-of-the-art treatment program for public safety officers experiencing acute stress disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Until recently, many have not recognized the tremendous mental stress our officers endure as a consequence of their service and the negative impact the job has on their physical, emotional, and mental health. Law enforcement and other public safety officers face a 25.6 times higher risk of developing acute stress disorder, PTSD, and other mental health conditions than those in other professions. Some statistics suggest that a law enforcement officer will experience more traumatic events in six months than the average person will experience in a lifetime.

The FOP strongly believes that we need to recognize the cumulative and corrosive effects of the mental stress suffered by law enforcement and other public safety officers and do everything we can to get them the help they need. This legislation seeks to develop programs at the Federal level that would be accessible to State and local public safety officers, including evidence-based trauma-informed care, peer support, counselor services and family support. This would help to expand the kinds of services and support available to officers and their families who are struggling with mental health issues.

On behalf of the more than 364,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you both for your leadership on this important issue. 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,

Patrick Yoes
National President