



# 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](http://www.fop.net) | [legislative@fop.net](mailto:legislative@fop.net)

---

8 August 2023

The Honorable Troy A. Carter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Carter,

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 9 April, Senior Police Officer Trevor Abney died from a gunshot wound he sustained on 30 October 2020. He was on patrol in the French Quarter when he and his partner, Officer Brooke Duncan IV, were ambushed by a passenger in a pedicab. Upon seeing the officers, the passenger opened fire, shattering the driver's side window of the police cruiser. Officer Abney was struck below his left eye and his partner was wounded by shattered glass. The shooter immediately fled and was apprehended after a chaotic foot chase.

Doctors were unable to remove the bullet from Officer Abney's brain, which left him blind in his left eye, and later took his life. The shooter, who is now a murderer, was charged with two counts of attempted murder and the district attorney has stated that he may file additional charges.

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 the death of your Officer Abney, 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 Cedric L. Richmond, voted for the bill in committee and on the House floor.

So far this year, 81 officers have been shot in ambush-style attacks and 14 officers, including your Officer Abney, 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.

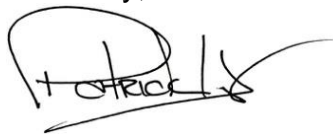
Ambush-style attacks and violence targeting law enforcement officers have been steadily increasing in recent years. A May 2019 report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) concluded: "While the overall number of officers who were

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 Officers Breidenbach and Scheel, 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, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Yoes  
National President

---

<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>