



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PATRICK YOES NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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31 January 2022

The Honorable Nikema N. Williams
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Williams,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to ask you to cosponsor H.R. 3079, the "Protect and Serve Act."

In response to the surge of violence directed at law enforcement officers in the form of calculated and ambush-style attacks, a bipartisan group of former law enforcement officers now serving in the House re-introduced this legislation, which would impose Federal penalties on individuals who deliberately target law enforcement officers with violence. In 2018, the Committee on the Judiciary voted unanimously to report this legislation, favorably and soon after, it was passed by the full House on an overwhelming 382-35 vote.

Officers in every community across the country, including your district, are experiencing increased violence deliberately targeting them. For example, on 1 December 2021 in Lithonia, Georgia, Deputies Ja'rad Hunt and Aaron Jackson from the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office were shot while serving an arrest warrant. The deputies were seeking to arrest a suspect wanted for shooting a victim using a high-powered rifle. As they approached the property, the suspect opened fire from inside without any warning. Both deputies were struck, and the shooter was able to flee the scene. Thankfully, however, the shooter was later captured by other responding deputies. This is the type of senseless violence aimed, literally, at law enforcement officers which the "Protect and Serve Act" addresses.

In 2021, 346 were shot in the line of duty, 63 of whom were killed. The lethality of these attacks would have been much greater but for the dramatic improvements in medical trauma science and anti-ballistic technology. One-Hundred and thirty officers were shot in 103 separate ambush-style attacks, which resulted in 30 officers being killed by gunfire. The 115% increase of ambush-style attacks from 2021 to 2020 is another 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 the targets of cowardly individuals whose sole motivation is to injure or kill a law enforcement officer.

In light of these chilling facts, we are asking you to cosponsor H.R. 3079 to address the national problem of ambushes and unprovoked attacks on our nation's law enforcement officers, particularly in Georgia, which had nineteen officers shot, nine of which resulted from an ambush in 2021. 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 send it to the House floor for a vote.

On behalf of the more than 364,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for considering the FOP's urgent request to cosponsor H.R. 3079. Along with this letter, please find a section-by-section analysis attached as well. 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, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Yoes
National President