



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PATRICK YOES NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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1 March 2022

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Padilla,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to ask you to cosponsor S. 774, 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, we worked with Senator Thomas R. Tillis (R-NC) to develop S. 774, which would impose Federal penalties on individuals who deliberately target law enforcement officers with violence.

Officers in every community across the country, including the state of California, are experiencing increased violence deliberately targeting them. For example, on 3 February 2022, an officer from the Pomona Police Department was on patrol when he came across three people in an alley. The officer attempted to contact the individuals when they immediately, without warning, opened fire, striking the officer in the leg. The officer was able to return fire, striking one of the suspects in the upper torso. The suspects then fled the scene, but the shooter was, thankfully, later detained in a nearby area. This wounded officer was transported to the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and received treatment for his injuries. 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—as the aforementioned officer from the Pomona Police Department found out first-hand—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 2020 to 2021 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 S. 774 to address the national problem of ambushes and unprovoked attacks on our nation's law enforcement officers, particularly in California, which had twenty-three officers shot in 2021, eight from an ambush. 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 Senate 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 S. 774. 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 initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patrick Yoes
National President