



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 | legislative@fop.net

23 March 2023

The Honorable John Cornyn III
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Cornyn and Cortez Masto,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for S. 894, the "Public Safety Concussions and Traumatic Brain Injury Health Act."

Law enforcement officers are in harm's way each and every day. Too many officers suffer physical injuries in the line of duty—whether it's while making an arrest, responding to a car crash, or being attacked by an assailant. While many of the injuries they sustain are identifiable and medically treated, internal injuries like concussions or traumatic brain injury (TBI) may go unnoticed or undiagnosed. Injuries like this can lead to difficulties with memory, concentration, communication, and other serious medical issues. While concussions are usually considered to be a mild traumatic brain injury, even these temporary injuries can take months to heal.

Professional sports teams have protocols to follow when an athlete is subjected to a head-related injury to ensure that concussions or more serious brain injuries are identified and treated. Law enforcement agencies should have similar protocols. Your legislation will help provide agencies with the ability to establish protocols like this by directing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to expand their current data collection efforts on concussions and TBI to include, and make publicly available, information on these types of injuries incurred by public safety officers. The CDC will then provide recommendations and protocols for identifying, treating, and diagnosing concussions and other serious brain-related injuries received by public safety officers. The bill also directs the CDC to disseminate information to mental health professionals on the connection between concussions and traumatic brain injuries with acute stress disorders and suicidal inclinations so that we have a greater understanding of the serious implications of officers who have undiagnosed injuries to their brain.

We believe that this is an important first step in addressing the issue of the long-term impact on the lives and health that concussions and TBIs have in the public safety community. On behalf of the more than 364,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you both for working with us to develop this legislation and for your ongoing leadership and partnership on so many law enforcement issues. If I can be of any further assistance or provide additional information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President