



17 September 2024

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

We are writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police—the nation’s oldest and largest law enforcement labor organization—and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the nation’s oldest and largest organization representing law enforcement executives—to advise you of our strong support for the inclusion of S. 930, the “Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act,” in the Senate’s pending version of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2025.

Our law enforcement officers are in harm’s way every day. Public safety officers—police, fire, and EMTs—are exposed not only to physical threats, but also unseen or unknown threats while operating in potentially hazardous environments. Public safety officers who are exposed to known carcinogens and who contract cancer that ends their lives or disables them should be considered to have sustained a personal injury in the line of duty for the purposes of the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) program. In May, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved S. 930 on a 21-0 roll call vote.

According to research published in 2011 by the State University of Buffalo and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, law enforcement officers have higher rates of brain cancer and Hodgkin’s lymphoma than the general population. The report highlighted a number of additional studies that show an elevated mortality risk among officers due to various cancers.

This legislation addresses this stark reality and would correctly categorize duty-related cancer fatalities as a line of duty death under the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program. This bill acknowledges their sacrifice in service to their communities and ensures that the families of fallen officers receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

On behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, we urge you to do whatever is necessary to ensure that the “Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act,” is included in the final draft of the FY2025 National Defense Reauthorization Act.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President

Wade K. Carpenter
National President