



FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Representing Members From:

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NOAA Fisheries Law Enforcement
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Army - CID
Defense Criminal Investigative Service
Naval Criminal Investigative Service
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EDUCATION - OIG
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NATALIA CASTRO

May 27, 2021

Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Booker and Portman,

We are writing to you today on behalf of the almost 30,000 members of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) to advise you of our continued strong support and appreciation for the "Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act." We are grateful for your leadership on this issue and your efforts to ensure that all law enforcement officers within the federal government are treated equally.

Federal law enforcement officers place themselves in harm's way every day in order to keep our nation safe. Throughout the past historic year—whether it be border security, violent attacks and riots in the streets of America, the attack on the U.S. Capitol, or responding to the COVID-19 pandemic—law enforcement officers across the federal government have distinguished themselves with their dedication to duty. Despite an equal dedication to duty, however, many of these same federal law enforcement officers are in disparate pension systems due to the various statutes enacted by Congress over the years. This has created a division among the federal law enforcement workforce with respect to pay and retirement benefits. In our view, a "law enforcement officer" in the federal service is a law enforcement officer no matter which agency they work for. Yet under federal law, the definition of law enforcement officers excludes thousands of federal police officers and others—an anachronistic concept that no longer matches the realities of modern-day law enforcement.

That is why we are proud to continue supporting the "Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act," a bill that would address this inequity and permit all law enforcement officers in the federal workforce to receive law enforcement retirement status. Specifically, this legislation would apply to any law enforcement employee whose duties include the investigation or apprehension of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the U.S., including uniformed officers from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs Police Department. In so doing, this bill will bring equity to the pay and benefits for all federal law enforcement officers and ensure that the federal government has the tools necessary to continue to recruit and retain the best law enforcement officers available.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue and we look forward to the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,
Larry J. Cosme
Larry Cosme
National President

CC: Senate HSGAC Committee