

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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August 9, 2017

Chairman Michael McCaul
2001 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul:

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) supports a multi-faceted approach to resolving America's border security vulnerabilities. Your bill, the *Border Security for America Act of 2017*, makes improvements to our border security through strengthening physical structures, updating administrative processing, employing state of the art technology, expanding surveillance, and adding to enforcement personnel. FLEOA is the nation's largest non-profit, non-partisan professional organization representing more than 26,000 federal officers and agents. FLEOA endorses this legislation because of its multi-layered approach to border security

Upgrades to our physical infrastructure and technology capabilities are vital in order to maintain the security of our borders. After years of neglect, our ports of entry require operational and technological upgrades to enhance situational awareness and operational control in our most vulnerable sectors and forward operating bases. This bill will increase the number of sorely understaffed Border Patrol officers, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers and agents, air & marine operations personnel, K-9 Units, horseback patrols, Search Trauma and Rescue Teams, and other specialists. In addition, we applaud the provisions for retaining qualified employees through retention incentives, salary increases, hardship duty compensation, and overtime pay.

FLEOA applauds the provisions for the Secretary of DHS to make grants to eligible state and local law enforcement agencies, which will assist CBP in enhanced law enforcement activities along our borders. In addition, we commend this bill's effort to ensure that agents will have secure communications, that the deployment of the biometric entry and exit system will be implemented, and that the trusted traveler programs will be expanded. Finally, in light of the novel and multi-faceted nature of many elements within this necessary legislation, FLEOA commends the Chairman for including reporting requirements on the results of each implementation.

Respectfully,

Nathan R. Catura

Nathan R. Catura
National President
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association