

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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May 10, 2016

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 26,000 members of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association to advise you of our strong support for legislation you intend to introduce entitled the “Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act.” We are grateful for your leadership on this important issue.

Each and every day, tens of thousands of federal law enforcement officers place themselves in harm’s way to keep our nation safe. They work on our borders; protect elected officials, dignitaries, employees, and citizens; secure our modes of transportation; and investigate criminal and terrorist activity both here and abroad. These brave men and women undergo similar training, have the authority to apprehend and arrest individuals for violations of federal law, and must be capable of meeting the strenuous physical requirements of the job.

Yet despite these similarities, there is a great divide between the pay and retirement benefits that are available to certain law enforcement employees due to an outdated definition of “law enforcement officer” in federal retirement law. This definition—which excludes thousands of federal police officers and others—is one that no longer meets the realities of our post-9/11 security needs.

It is for these reasons and many other reasons that we are proud to support the “Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act.” This important legislation would amend the definition of law enforcement officer to encompass all law enforcement employees 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 help 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. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide you with any additional assistance.

Respectfully yours,

Nathan R. Catura

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National President