

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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May 11, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing over 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies – I am writing you regarding FLEOA's support for legislation you intend to introduce to provide excepted service hiring authority to the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and increase their journeyman grade to a GS-13, in line with other federal criminal investigative agencies.

As you know, the U.S. Marshal's Service, like many federal law enforcement agencies, is currently grappling with hiring and retention issues of its personnel. The Marshals Service, our nation's emergency response federal law enforcement entity, is often called upon to fill in the role of on scene federal law enforcement presence in national emergencies. During Hurricane Katrina and in the hunt for the Pennsylvania police assassin that killed Pennsylvania State Trooper Corporal Bryon K. Dickson II and critically injured Trooper Alex Douglass, the Marshals Service provided the strong federal presence that instills the rule of law and insures public safety in often chaotic environments.

Today, Deputy U.S. Marshals have been called upon to secure the court systems in Iraq and Afghanistan including the trial of Saddam Hussein; transport and secure High Value Terrorists and recently called upon to provide protection to several Presidential appointees are are facing serious threats.

Your proposed legislation will grant the U.S. Marshals Service the authority to recruit and retain key GS-13 level Deputy U.S. Marshals and elevate their position to the important national security standing they deserve. These valiant public servants track down and apprehend the "worst of the worst" in our nation, answer our nation's call in catastrophes, monitor and transport dangerous criminals and protect the safety of our federal courts, witnesses, federal Judges and others as authorized by the President. For that service they are long overdue for a pay system that modernizes and reflects their national service.

FLEOA appreciates your efforts and leadership with supporting the Marshals Service excepted service appointment hiring authority legislation which includes elevation of Deputy U.S. Marshals to a journeyman GS-13 level and looks forward to working with your office for swift passage. Please feel free to contact FLEOA or myself if you have any questions at Dominick.stokes@flea.org

Respectfully,

Dominick L. Stokes

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FLEOA Vice President for Legislative Affairs