

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Jeff Flake
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Flake & Senator Heitkamp:

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation’s largest professional, non-profit association representing 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies, I am writing in support of legislation you intend to introduce entitled the “CBP HiRe Act.”

Over recent years we have witnessed senseless acts of terrorism from around the world. Terrorism is not confined to any single geographic area, making it difficult for Law Enforcement and Intelligence agencies to track and disrupt potential threats and attacks. Currently, the European Union provides no real physical boundaries or a border presence and is limited in disrupting the movement of potential terrorists. Furthermore, they now have a refugee crisis compounded with the unfortunate reality of frequent terrorist attacks.

Unfortunately, we too have fallen victim experiencing the very same extremism within our own communities. It has only been through the dedicated vigilance and efforts of the men and women of the front line Law Enforcement agencies that the United States will be kept safe from the rising tide of terrorism. The United States Customs and Border Protection agency (US-CBP) is the premier frontline agency dedicated to protecting our Nation’s borders, in addition to having the awesome responsibility of facilitating lawful international trade and travel. Keeping the American people and the Homeland safe starts at our national borders. Unlike Europe, maintaining proper staffing levels at rural ports of entry across the United States is essential to stemming the tide of terrorism.

CBP faces many hurdles in regard to staffing law enforcement personnel in areas vital to national security. These areas are often in remote and desolate areas creating a great financial and personal hardship on the men and women protecting our borders. This negatively impacts the CBP mission as they find themselves in a continuous hiring cycle. It has become routine for CBP employees within these areas to seek and gain employment in non-rural areas with other Federal Law Enforcement agencies. This not only creates a retention issue but also burdens CBP with a huge recruiting disadvantage in comparison to other law enforcement agencies. For the sake of national security this cycle cannot continue.

FLEOA strongly endorses the “CBP HiRe Act” as it will help to strengthen staffing at our borders to further prevent the ever growing threat of terror in the United States. Without the hiring incentives offered in this legislation, CBP will continue to lack the tools necessary to recruit and retain essential personnel in areas that are vital to our national security.

FLEOA appreciates your efforts to advance this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Nathan R. Catura

Nathan R. Catura
National President