

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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October 18, 2016

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the Senate
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Senate President:

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 you regarding the recently introduced legislative proposal by the Office of Personal Management (OPM) which would amend Federal civilian death gratuities and allowances for survivors of Federal employees killed in the line of duty.

Every day, Federal law enforcement officers and agents risk their lives to defend the United States, guarding our borders and ports of entry, thwarting acts of terror – both domestic and abroad – protecting our elected officials and safeguarding our financial and economic infrastructure. In their efforts, many pay the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Death gratuities paid to the families of Federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty have varied based on a number of factors, including the specific segment of the Federal workforce that the employee was part of, the agency administering the benefit, and a differing set of rules related to offset requirements, tax treatment, and eligible beneficiaries. Currently, significant disparities and inequities exist across the Federal government with respect to the administration of death gratuities. This proposal will greatly improve, expand, and harmonize death gratuities and other related allowances for the survivors of Federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty, including those resulting from a terrorist attack, a criminal act, exposure to extreme risk while performing their jobs, or retaliation for carrying out their responsibilities.

FLEOA appreciates your time and effort regarding this issue and we look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,

Dominick L. Stokes

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FLEOA Vice President for Legislative Affairs