



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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## A MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT PATRICK YOES

7 February 2022

Dear Day on the Hill Participant,

Welcome to our annual Day on the Hill, which is once again virtual because of the public health situation, very restricted access to the U.S. Capitol and Congressional offices, and strict COVID-19 protocols imposed by the District of Columbia.

As we begin this new session of Congress and approach the midterm elections, our fraternity faces significant challenges. Crime rates nationwide are skyrocketing, and more and more officers are being targeted with violence. Our profession is also facing an unprecedented crisis when it comes to retaining and recruiting good officers. This is a critical time, and we must be sure that our voices are heard by Congress and by this Administration. Too much is at stake.

With your help, we hope to make real progress on the FOP's legislative agenda in the House. We remain cautiously optimistic that the Senate may act on bills which passed the House with bipartisan support. Our success, however, comes down to YOU! We will need your help at the grassroots level to ensure our message gets through. Your participation this week is only a small part of our advocacy program. If we are to succeed, we need all of our members to build, strengthen, and sustain their relationships with their Senators and Representatives. Members of Congress need to know that FOP members are active voters in their States and districts will be watching them carefully. Make it clear that you and your members will hold them accountable—particularly in an election year.

One example of how effective grassroots advocacy can be is shown by our efforts to increase the number of cosponsors for H.R. 82/S. 1302, the "Social Security Fairness Act," which will fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). In the House, we have already secured 245 cosponsors—a significant majority. The support for the bill is also very bipartisan. We are working to get 290 cosponsors, which, under House rules, would trigger its consideration. The Senate companion bill has 37 cosponsors—which is the most support we've had on this bill, at this point, in a congressional cycle.



We also continue to fight for retirement fairness for all of our Federal law enforcement officers by supporting H.R. 962/S. 1888, the “Law Enforcement Officers’ Equity Act.” This bill will extend the law enforcement retirement benefits to all Federal law enforcement officers. If this bill is to have a chance at being considered, it is vital that we increase the number of cosponsors on this measure. Currently, the House version has 86 cosponsors. The Senate companion bill has been introduced, and we are working to recruit new cosponsors for this legislation.

We are also proud to announce that our collective bargaining bill, H.R. 3225, the “Public Employer-Employee Cooperation Act,” has 29 cosponsors in the House. Our Washington, D.C. staff is heavily engaged in conversations with Members of Congress and is actively pushing for additional cosponsors. In the Senate, we have some work to do, as the Senate companion bill has not yet been introduced.

In addition to these top priorities, we continue to push to get wider support for two important officer safety bills in the House—H.R. 3079, the “Protect and Serve Act,” which would make it a Federal crime to target law enforcement officers with violence and H.R. 1210, the “LEOSA Reform Act.” The latter bill would extend the LEOSA exemption to apply to the Gun-Free School Zones Act, National Parks, and certain Federal buildings like post offices or Social Security Administration buildings. The bill would also extend the exemption to magazines so that officers are not exposed to legal jeopardy in States that have limitations on the number of rounds or capacity of a magazine. Both of these are vital officer safety issues, and we need your help to increase our support for them in the House.

### SIGN UP FOR THE NATIONAL FOP'S WEEKLY UPDATE

I am pleased to tell you that we continue to have an excellent relationship with this Administration, especially the President. He has engaged with us directly on numerous issues, including the three bipartisan bills that were signed into law in November 2021. These three bills were S. 1502, the “Confidentiality Opportunities for Peer Support (COPS) Act;” S. 1511, the “Protecting America’s First Responders Act;” and S. 921, the “Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Officers and Employees Protection Act.” These three bills will: make it easier for Federal officers to seek out peer support for mental wellness; make needed reforms to the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) program with respect to the COVID-19 presumption sought by the FOP; and clarify that Federal law clearly and unambiguously protects Federal law enforcement officers and other employees operating outside our borders. President Biden recognized the FOP's efforts over the past year and years before to push these bills through Congress. No other law enforcement organization has the access to the Administration that the FOP does. This makes building relationships with your Members of Congress in the House and the Senate that much more important.



While we are grateful for your participation this week, please remember that genuine grassroots activism is not a one or two-day event. The key to being effective in the future is to grow the relationships with the individuals you meet this week. Follow-up! Make contact again with the Members and staffers you interact with during this event, even if it is just to thank them for their time. Each and every contact you have with them will reinforce the progress you made and make our efforts here more productive in generating strong and active support for our issues.

I also want to ask you and your lodge brothers and sisters to support the National Fraternal Order of Police Political Action Committee (NFOP PAC), which, like our grassroots activism, is an essential part of our National Legislative Program. The NFOP PAC allows us to support candidates who support our members and our profession. We need to increase member participation in our payroll deduction and monthly recurring credit card programs. Please take this request back to your local and State Lodges and help us grow our PAC and amplify our voice in the nation’s capital.

On behalf of your more than 364,000 brothers and sisters in the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for taking the time to be part of Day on the Hill 2022!

Sincerely,



**Patrick Yoes**  
*National President*

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE NATIONAL FOP’S GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA AFFAIRS CENTER AT (202) 547-8189**

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**TO VIEW THE FULL LIST OF LEGISLATION WE SUPPORT, CLICK HERE**