



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PATRICK YOES NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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1 March 2022

The Honorable Thomas C. O'Halleran
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ann L. Kirkpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul A. Gosar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andrew S. Biggs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David S. Schweikert
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gregory J. Stanton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives of the Arizona Delegation,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to ask for your help in the wake of the horrific ambush-style attack on officers from the Phoenix Police Department. This vicious attack resulted in nine officers being wounded, all for simply doing their job and protecting the public. We are asking for your support in addressing this issue by cosponsoring H.R. 3079, the "Protect and Serve Act."

While the investigation into the attack in Phoenix is currently ongoing, media reports and public statements about the incident state that Phoenix police were responding to a report of a woman who was shot in a nearby home around 2:15 am on 11 February. The first officer to arrive was invited inside the home by the individual that police believed to be the 9-1-1 caller. When the officer approached, the suspect pulled out a hidden handgun and opened fire. The officer was struck multiple times but was able to get to safety as backup arrived. The shooter then barricaded himself inside the home. Shortly after, another man, believed to be the suspect's brother, ran from inside the home and placed a baby on the porch near the front door. Officers attempted to rescue the baby when the shooter opened fire again, striking four officers. An additional four other officers were injured by bullet shrapnel. The woman and girlfriend of the suspect, who was the subject of the call, was later found dead from a gunshot that had occurred during a domestic dispute with the suspect. The suspect was later found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot. Cowardly attacks such as these need to be addressed.

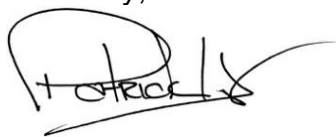
In response to this surge of violence directed at law enforcement officers in the form of calculated and ambush-style attacks, we worked with a bipartisan group of former law enforcement officers in the House that introduced H.R. 3079, the "Protect and Serve Act." This legislation would impose Federal penalties on individuals who deliberately target law enforcement officers with violence in very specific situations. In 2018, the Committee on the Judiciary voted unanimously to report this legislation favorably, and soon after, it was passed by the full House on an overwhelming 382-35 vote. We are asking all of you to support this same legislation by cosponsoring H.R. 3079.

In 2021, 346 officers were shot in the line of duty, 63 of whom were killed. The lethality of these attacks would have been much greater but for the dramatic improvements in medical trauma science and anti-ballistic technology. One hundred and thirty officers were shot in 103 separate ambush-style attacks, which resulted in 30 officers being killed by gunfire. The 115% increase of ambush-style attacks from 2020 to 2021 is another stark reminder that our law enforcement officers are not just in harm's way due to the dangerous nature of their profession, but that they are the targets of cowardly individuals whose sole motivation is to injure or kill a law enforcement officer.

In light of these chilling facts, we are asking you to cosponsor H.R. 3079 to address the national problem of ambushes and unprovoked attacks on our nation's law enforcement officers. No officer should be at risk of being targeted while simply sitting in their patrol car, heading home at the end of a shift, or even responding to a 9-1-1 call. When a member of the public calls for help, we answer that call. Now, we are asking for your help and urge you to cosponsor this bill so that we can send it to the House floor for a vote.

On behalf of the more than 364,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for considering the FOP's urgent request to cosponsor H.R. 3079. Along with this letter please find a section-by-section analysis attached as well. If I can provide any additional information about this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Yoes", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Yoes
National President

cc: Paul Sheldon, President, Arizona State Lodge