



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

7 July 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy P. Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry M. Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Speaker, Representative Pelosi and Senators McConnell and Reid,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for the final conference report on S. 524, the “Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act,” which contains many provisions designed to tackle the dangerous rise in the use of heroin and abuse of opioids in our country.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) there was a fivefold increase in the amount of overdose deaths due to heroin from 2001 to 2013, and statistics have shown that we lose 129 people every day to heroin and opioid overdoses. Public awareness of these drugs is the first step to stop the ongoing abuse of heroin and opioids in this country. The legislation provides treatment for those caught in the clutches of addiction or who also suffer from mental illness and also provides law enforcement with necessary tools to prevent heroin and opioid deaths by assisting agencies in acquiring and deploying naloxone which can reverse the effects of an overdose.

Law enforcement officers are almost always the first on the scene—even before the paramedics arrive. In these life and death situations, our officers are not looking to make an arrest, but to save a life. Many States and jurisdictions have successfully equipped their officers with this life-saving drug, trained them to recognize the symptoms of an overdose, and administer it on the scene. We believe that the final conference report on S. 524 will help expand the use of naloxone and give us one more tool to reduce the deaths from this epidemic.

Too many lives have been lost to these drugs, and too many families have been torn apart. On behalf of more than the 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I urge Congress to adopt the

— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —

conference report. Thank you as always for your leadership and if I can be of any further assistance, contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President