

## NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PATRICK YOES NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JIM PASCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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The Honorable Christopher C. Pappas U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Brian K. Fitzpatrick U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Pappas and Fitzpatrick,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for H.R. 3535, the "Establishing Accreditation Grants for Law Enforcement (EAGLE) Act."

The accreditation of a law enforcement agency can increase their accountability, improve operational effectiveness, and enhance community trust. However, accreditation can be a costly and time-consuming process, especially for smaller agencies. Less than 10% of the nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies are accredited.

Your legislation would establish a grant program that would pay the certification or recertification fees for small and mid-sized law enforcement agencies. Rather than choosing between hiring an additional patrol officer or paying for accreditation fees, an agency could do both. An accredited agency can better serve its officers, employees, and the communities that they are sworn to protect.

On behalf of the more than 364,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I am proud to offer our support for this legislation. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes National President