



April 30, 2019

The Honorable Charles Grassley
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Grassley and Gillibrand,

On behalf of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), which represents the interests of the nation's volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services, I am writing to endorse S. 1208, the Protecting America's First Responders Act of 2019.

S. 1208 makes important improvements to the process by which public safety officers are able to access the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Disability Program. It also makes necessary changes to how PSOB claims are paid to the survivors of public safety officers who died of occupational illnesses related to work at Ground Zero after 9/11. Finally, I am very pleased that you have agreed to offer an amendment that includes language proposed by Senators Blumenthal and Toomey clarifying that members of volunteer fire departments who perform scene security and traffic management duties at emergency scenes are public safety officers.

Thank you for your leadership in introducing S. 1208. I look forward to working with you to ensure that this important legislation is enacted,

Sincerely,

Steve Hirsch
Chair

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