



CALIFORNIA COALITION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS
PROUDLY REPRESENTING OVER 150,000 PEACE OFFICERS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CALIFORNIA COALITION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS (CCLEA) ENDORSES UNITED STATES SENATOR CHARLES E. GRASSLEY'S "PROTECTING AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS ACT" (PAFRA).

California- The California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations represents more than 40 law enforcement associations and over 150,000 peace officers throughout the State of California. Those Associations include the Los Angeles Police Protective League, San Francisco Police Officers Association, Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, Sacramento Police Officers Association, Sacramento Deputy Sheriffs Association and many more. As a whole, we proudly endorse the ***Protecting America's First Responders Act (PAFRA)***.

In 1976, Congress created the *Public Safety Officer's Benefit (PSOB)* program that provided assistance when first responders became disabled or died in the line of duty. The program provides a one-time benefit payment to permanently disabled first responders or to the families of fallen first responders. It also provides children and spouses with educational assistance to help pay for college.

Over the years, there have been delays and issues with payments and many families of the disabled or fallen first responders have suffered. This bipartisan bill ensures that the Department adjudicates disability claims consistent with Congress' original intent so that officers and their families can receive the support they've been promised. This bill will streamline the process and eliminate unnecessary delays in the processing of claims and will ensure that if a delay does occur, the families of the first responders will receive their full benefits awarded to them under the Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB) program. Amongst other things, PAFRA will increase interim death benefits from \$3,000 to \$6,000, something that has not changed since the PSOB program started in 1976. Finally, PAFRA allows the children of first responders who died or became disabled in the line of duty to always be eligible for college tuition reimbursement. It will change the word from "may" to "shall," requiring that PSOB benefits be paid to eligible children who may have paid for school on their own.

Protecting America's First Responders Act is supported by a number of first responder organizations all over the United States and the California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations is proud to join them in support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Craig Lally, President

Rudy Perez, Vice President