Safeguarding America’s First Responders (SAFR)
Grassley, Booker, Cruz, Feinstein, Tillis, Coons, Daines,
Gillibrand, Scott, Menendez, Loeffler, Blumenthal, Moran and Schumer

Background
The Public Safety Officers’ Benefit (PSOB) program provides public safety officers (PSO) who are killed in the line of duty with a one-time lump sum payment of $359,316 and/or education assistance of $1,224.00 per month to their children or spouse. Infectious diseases are covered under a line-of-duty death as long as evidence indicates that the infectious disease was contracted while on duty. Providing evidence that a deadly disease was contracted on duty can be straightforward in instances where an officer comes into contact with a dirty needle however, in the case of COVID-19, it can be very difficult to provide evidence that the virus was contracted on duty.

What the bill does

- Creates a presumption that if a first responder is diagnosed with COVID-19 within 45 days of their last day on duty, the Department of Justice will treat it as a line of duty incident.
- The presumption will guarantee payment of benefits to any first responder who dies from COVID-19 or a complication therefrom.
- The presumption will run from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.
- The presumption will require a diagnosis of COVID-19 or evidence indicating that the officer had COVID-19 at the time of death. This covers officers in high impact areas where finding tests can be difficult.

Endorsements
- Fraternal Order of Police
- National Association of Police Officers
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Sergeants Benevolent Association of New York
- Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
- National Association of School Resource Officers