

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

A Model Questionnaire for use by State and Local Lodges

The following model questionnaire is being provided to all State and local Lodges to aid them in evaluating candidates for Congress. The questions are drawn from issues being lobbied by the Grand Lodge on Capitol Hill.

It is particularly important for the State and local Lodges to endorse candidates who support our top priority items and oppose those candidates who do not. The success of the National Legislative Program depends on having an active grassroots base and on electing lawmakers who support our pro-law enforcement agenda. The following is a brief summation of the top legislative priorities of the Fraternal Order of Police:

- ***Social Security issues: Support H.R. 1332/S. 2010, the “Social Security Fairness Act” and Oppose Mandatory Participation in Social Security:*** The FOP strongly supports the repeal of both the “Windfall Elimination Provision” (WEP) and the “Government Pension Offset” (GPO). The FOP vehemently opposes legislation which would mandate participation in Social Security for public employees or new hires who are currently outside the Social Security system.
- ***Support the “Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act”:*** The FOP strongly supports legislation which would guarantee the right of public employees to bargain collectively with their employers over hours, wages, and conditions of employment. The goal of this legislation is to have each State pass a law providing minimum collective bargaining rights to their public safety employees and outlines certain provisions to be included in those laws. Strikes and lockouts would be prohibited and States with collective bargaining laws already on the books will be exempt from any Federal statute.
- ***Support H.R. 1789, the “State and Local Law Enforcement Discipline, Accountability and Due Process Act”:*** The FOP strongly supports a “bill of rights” for law enforcement officers who are, in a number of jurisdictions, denied their due process rights by police administrators and management in noncriminal proceedings. There is a need for a minimum level of procedural protections for law enforcement officers accused of administrative wrongdoing because of the gravity of potential harm to officers created by this lack of uniform safeguards.
- ***Support H.R. 324:*** The FOP strongly supports legislation giving certain Federal law enforcement officers employed by the U.S. Department of Defense statutory arrest authority.
- ***Support H.R. 327/S. 985, the “Law Enforcement Officers’ Equity Act”:*** The FOP strongly supports legislation expanding the definition of “law enforcement officer” for salary and retirement benefits to include all Federal law enforcement officers.

Section One:

Employees' Rights Issues

1. The Fraternal Order of Police strongly supports *H.R. 1332/S. 2010, the “Social Security Fairness Act,”* which would repeal both the “Windfall Elimination Provision” (WEP) and the “Government Pension Offset” (GPO) in current law. The WEP penalizes certain public employees who also worked in the private sector and paid into the Social Security system, through a substantial reduction in their benefits, because they also collect a government pension. The GPO provision in current law causes the reduction or elimination of the spouse's or widow(er)'s benefit from Social Security by two-thirds of the monthly amount received from the government pension. If currently a Member of Congress, are you a cosponsor of this legislation? If not, will you pledge to support this legislation in the 113th Congress?
2. In the past few years, politicians at the Federal, State and local level have demonized public sector unions—including unions representing law enforcement officers. Law enforcement officers, who put themselves in harm’s way to protect their neighborhoods and communities, are being held up as objects of scorn and ridicule by these politicians who cite the cost of their hard-earned pensions and benefits as the reason for the government’s fiscal woes. What have you done or will you do to halt these politically motivated attacks on public safety unions and how will you stand up for these organizations?
3. In 2001, the Commission to Strengthen Social Security (CSSS) issued a report which rejected a scheme to mandate participation in Social Security for newly hired State and local government employees currently outside the Social Security system. Will you pledge to oppose any legislation which includes a provision mandating participation in the Social Security system for either current or newly hired State and local government employees that do not currently participate in Social Security?
4. The Fraternal Order of Police strongly supports legislation which provides minimal collective bargaining rights for public safety employees (i.e., law enforcement officers and firefighters). What is your position on public employee collective bargaining? In the 111th Congress, the FOP strongly supported *H.R. 413/S. 1611, the “Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act.”* If elected, will you actively support the enactment of similar legislation? Would you also support similar provisions that would allow uniform and non-uniform Federal law enforcement officers to unionize and engage in collective bargaining?
5. If you were a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 111th Congress, how did you vote on 1 July 2010 on the second amendment considered under H. Res. 1500 (Roll Call Vote #430)?
6. If you were a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 110th Congress, how did you vote on H.R.980 (Roll Call Vote #633)?
7. If you were a Member of the Senate in the 107th Congress, how did you vote on invoking cloture to end debate on S. Amdt. 2044 (Recorded Vote #323)?

8. The Fraternal Order of Police strongly supports legislation which would articulate the rights of law enforcement officers who are, in a number of jurisdictions, denied their due process rights by police administrators and management. Are you a cosponsor of *H.R. 1789, the "State and Local Law Enforcement Discipline, Accountability and Due Process Act,"* which protects the due process rights of law enforcement officers in non-criminal, administrative proceedings? If you are not currently a Member of Congress, will you pledge to support this legislation in the 113th Congress?
9. The Fraternal Order of Police strongly supports *H.R. 327/S. 985, the "Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act,"* which would expand the definition of "law enforcement officer" under the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System to include all Federal police officers, as well as Customs and Immigration Inspectors. What is your position regarding the current disparity in the pay and benefits provided to law enforcement officers across the Federal government, and what measures will you support to ensure parity among the Federal government's public safety officers? If currently a Member of Congress, are you a cosponsor of this legislation? If not, will you pledge to support this legislation in the 113th Congress?
10. The enactment of *H.R. 3590, the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,"* included an excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage. Even though this tax is levied against the insurance provider and the tax does not go into effect until January 2018, the provision is strongly opposed by the Fraternal Order of Police because it could result in a decrease in the quality or increase the cost of plans for law enforcement officers. The provision imposes a forty percent (40%) tax to premiums above \$27,500 for family plans and \$10,200 for individuals. (For example, an individual plan worth \$11,200 would pay a \$400 tax.) There is an increased threshold for employees engaged in high risk professions, which includes law enforcement, of \$3,000 for family plans and \$1,350 for individual plans. Essentially any plan for a law enforcement officer that is under \$30,500 (for a family) or \$11,550 (for an individual) would be exempt from the tax. Also, the thresholds are indexed to increase at the rate of inflation. As a Member of Congress, what steps will you take to repeal this tax and will you pledge to oppose any direct or indirect tax on health plans?
11. In 2007, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) proposed a new rule requiring pension plans to have a "normal retirement age" which is an age "not earlier than the earliest age that is reasonably representative of the typical retirement age for the industry in which the covered workforce is employed." For plans in which "substantially all" of the participants are public safety officers, the new "normal retirement age" would be 50. This is at odds with the standard practice of defined benefit plans used by State and local governments, which typically define their normal retirement age or normal retirement date as the date or age when participants qualify for normal or unreduced retirement benefits under the plan. Such qualification is often conditioned, in whole or in part, on the completion of a stated number of years of service. Pension plans are designed for public safety employees, who must maintain physical vigor to accomplish their public safety missions, and, for this reason, often begin these careers at an earlier age than other public employees and retire at an earlier age. Typical public safety plans are tied to years of service, usually ranging from 20 to 25 years, not to the arbitrary 50 years of age described in the regulation. The Federal government has never prohibited the use of years

of service for governmental pension plans. In fact, the IRS routinely approved service-based normal retirement ages through the determination letter process. The implementation of this rule has been delayed by the IRS several times already and without another delay, a change in the rule, or legislative action, it will go into effect on 1 January 2013. There is little doubt that its implementation would have an immediate and very negative impact on many individuals as well as pension plans, many of which are governed by State statutes or State Constitutions and others which could be part of an existing labor contract. Plans may be forced into a position of choosing to violate a State Constitution, a State law, an existing contract, or an IRS regulation. Congress has introduced legislation, ***H.R. 3561, the "Small Business Pension Promotion Act,"*** which would make clear that existing plans which use "years of service" to establish a normal retirement date will be able to continue this practice without penalty and without jeopardizing the retirement plans and benefits of so many of our nation's law enforcement and other public safety officers. If currently a Member of Congress, are you a cosponsor of this legislation? If not, will you pledge to support this legislation in the 113th Congress?

12. The Fraternal Order of Police strongly supports the use of Defined Benefit (DB) pension plans for public employees and is concerned that these plans are under fire at the State and local level in favor of Defined Contribution (DC) plans, which do not have guaranteed benefits for retirees. Many State lawmakers have proposed legislation which would replace existing Defined Benefit plans with Defined Contribution plans, thereby reducing retirement benefits for employees. What is your position in respect to Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution plans and how might Congress address this issue at the Federal level?
13. If you were a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 112th Congress and serving on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, how did you vote on the motion to favorably report ***H.R. 3812, the "Securing Annuities for Federal Employees Act"***?
14. Since the Fraternal Order of Police is the largest labor organization representing this country's law enforcement professionals, how will you involve and consult with our leadership concerning any legislation, hearings, or other Congressional activity relating to labor issues?

Section Two:

Criminal Justice Issues

1. The Fraternal Order of Police was the chief advocate for the passage of ***H.R. 218/S. 253, the “Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act,”*** which was signed into law in July 2004, and subsequent legislation, ***H.R. 3752/S. 1132, the “Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act Improvements Act,”*** amending the original statute. The law exempts qualified active and retired law enforcement officers from State and local prohibitions on the carrying of concealed firearms. If you were a Member of the 108th Congress, were you a cosponsor of either of these bills and did you support the measure when it was put to a vote? (**REFERENCES:** *House Roll Call Vote #237, 106th Congress, 18 June 1999; House Committee vote, 108th Congress, 16 June 2004; and Senate Recorded Vote #26, 108th Congress, 2 March 2004*)
2. If you were a Member of the 111th Congress, were you a cosponsor of ***H.R. 3752*** or ***S. 1132***?
3. The FOP supports legislation that would increase the penalties for threats and violence against law enforcement officers, judges, and courtroom personnel--including making the murder or attempted murder of a law enforcement officer employed by an agency that receives Federal funds a capital offense. The legislation would also impose time and other substantive limits on Federal courts’ review of *habeas corpus* petitions challenging a State court conviction for killing a law enforcement officer, judge, or other public safety officer and incorporate an existing provision of the Federal *habeas* statute that is used to determine whether a defendant may file a successive petition or seek a new evidentiary hearing in Federal court. If elected, will you support such legislation?
4. The FOP believes that all civilian Federal law enforcement officers should have statutory arrest authority. There are thousands of civilian law enforcement officers employed by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) whose authority is limited to that of “apprehension.” Because it is not clear if the difference between arrest and apprehension is one of use or one of law, the FOP supports legislation like ***H.R. 324*** which would authorize the U.S. Secretary of Defense to grant statutory arrest authority to civilian law enforcement officers within DoD. If you are currently a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, are you a cosponsor of this legislation. Will you pledge to support this legislation in the 113th Congress?
5. The Fraternal Order of Police supports legislation that would limit the amount of damages a criminal defendant could recover as a result of injuries that the criminal incurred in the course of committing or being apprehended for a felony or a crime of violence. Would you support and cosponsor such legislation if it were introduced?
6. For what crimes do you believe that the death penalty is appropriate?
7. When Congress enacted ***H.R. 3630, the “Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act,”*** the bill contained a provision allocating the D Block of spectrum to public safety in order to create a truly national public safety broadband network. The law calls for a new entity, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to be created. FirstNet will be located within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) at the U.S. Department

of Commerce and be provided with \$7 billion to fund the build out of the national public safety broadband network. This is less than the original \$12 billion proposed to fully fund the build out. Will you support legislation or other measures to ensure that public safety is provided the resources to complete construction of a national public safety broadband network?

8. As a Member of Congress, how will you guarantee that the Fraternal Order of Police and the interests of its members are represented on the First Responder Network Authority, which will hold the Public Safety Broadband License, and on the advisory councils of the Federal Communications Commission, which will oversee FirstNet?
9. The Fraternal Order of Police strongly supports the enactment of ***H.R. 365/S. 657, the “National Blue Alert Act,”*** which will create a national alert system allowing law enforcement to notify and seek the help of the general public if a law enforcement officer goes missing, is killed or is seriously injured in the line of duty. If currently a Member of Congress, are or were you a cosponsor of this bill?
10. If you are a Member of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, how did you vote on 8 September 2011 on the motion to favorably report S. 657?
11. If you were a Member of the House, how did you vote on 15 May 2012 on final passage for ***H.R. 365?*** (*House Roll Call Vote #250*)
12. The Fraternal Order of Police supports the creation of a national commission to examine our nation’s criminal justice systems and to make recommendations to Congress based on their findings. A similar commission established in 1965 resulted in a huge step forward for the profession of law enforcement and the criminal justice system at every level of government. We believe that the integrity and credibility of such a commission depends on it being created by an act of Congress, not an executive order. To this end, the FOP supports the passage of ***S. 306, the “National Criminal Justice Commission Act.”*** If a Member of the Senate, are you a cosponsor of this bill? If you were a Member of the 111th Congress, were you a cosponsor of ***S. 714*** or ***H.R. 5143?*** Will you pledge to support this legislation in the 113th Congress?
13. If you are a Member of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, how did you vote 6 May 2010 on the motion to favorably report S. 714?
14. The FOP has long been concerned about foreign governments providing shelter for criminals who commit murder or other serious violent crimes in this country, and subsequently flee to another. The FOP strongly opposes normalization of relations with Cuba until this issue is resolved, but travel restrictions that were in place for decades have recently been relaxed. We have been equally critical of other governments, including France, Israel, and Mexico, on this same point. At the FOP’s Biennial National Conference in 2007, our membership adopted a resolution urging the President of the United States and the Congress to take any and all measures necessary to enforce the 1978 Extradition Treaty made between the United Mexican States and the United States of America, “including, but not limited to the cancellation or renegotiation of the Extradition Treaty” and imposition of sanctions “including but not limited to rescinding all financial aid and support to that Government and any and all benefits afforded

to that Government under the North American Free Trade Agreement” to ensure that those who commit crimes of violence in the United States are extradited and prosecuted under the laws of the United States. What steps will you take as a Member of Congress to place pressure on Cuba, Mexico and other foreign governments that provide safe harbor for those who commit crimes of violence in the U.S.? Will you pledge to make sure that Congress provides vigorous oversight on the issue of extradition of existing and future fugitives when considering agreements with foreign governments?

15. In December 2011, as the FOP marked the 30th anniversary of the murder of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner by Wesley Cook, who is better known by his alias, Mumia Abu-Jamal, a small town in the suburbs of Paris decided to name a street after this killer. Similarly, a Chicago alderman proposed several years ago to name a street in honor of a Black Panther thug named Fred Hampton, who advocated the killing of police officers. If you were a Member of the House in the 109th Congress, how did you vote on final passage for H. Res. 1082, which condemned the actions of St.-Denis, France in honoring a murderer (*Roll Call Vote #527*), and, as a Member of Congress, what actions will you take to deter or condemn efforts by local, State, Federal or foreign governments to honor those who kill or urge the killing of our nation’s police officers. What actions will you take to curb politically-motivated attacks on law enforcement officers and what steps will you take to reinforce the public confidence in police?
16. “Racial profiling,” once a political buzzword and a favorite topic of the media, disappeared from the headlines following the attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001. The FOP has condemned the practice and asserted that it is not the policy of any U.S. law enforcement agency to base enforcement decisions solely on race. However, legislation like *H.R. 3618/S. 1670, the “End Racial Profiling Act,”* continues to be introduced in Congress. How do you define “racial profiling”? Do you believe that Federal legislation is necessary to address this issue and, if so, what would the legislation do and how would it affect law enforcement activity at the State and local level? If you are currently a Member of Congress, are you a cosponsor of this legislation? Will you pledge to oppose bills like this if elected to the 113th Congress?
17. If you were a Member of the 111th Congress, did you a cosponsor of *H.R. 872/S. 428, the “Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act,”* or *H.R. 4645, the “Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act”*?
18. If you were a Member of the House Committee on Agriculture in the 111th Congress, how did you vote on 30 June 2010 on *H.R. 4645*?
19. The FOP has expressed concern that critics of the enactment of the recent State statute in Arizona, *Senate Bill 1070, the Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act,* state that law enforcement officers will engage in racial profiling despite the fact that this practice is illegal. Law enforcement officers know the meanings of the terms “reasonable suspicion” and “probable cause.” What is your position on local and State enforcement of immigration law, be it State or Federal?
20. True immigration reform requires action by the Federal government. The FOP believes that

any legislation reforming our nation's immigration system must provide for greater security at our nation's borders, aggressive enforcement of immigration law internally, and enhanced penalties against businesses and individuals that exploit and traffic in illegal laborers. Do you agree? What elements do you see as most important for a comprehensive immigration reform bill?

21. In 2009, the *Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act* was signed into law without any support from the law enforcement community. Did you support this legislation? Why is such a law necessary and how do you believe such crimes should be defined? Would you consider categorizing the murder of a law enforcement officer a crime of hate?
22. In 1996 Congress passed the "Domestic Violence Offender Gun Ban," or "Lautenberg Law," as it is popularly known. The language was a small part of the huge "Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act," a must-pass bill enacted on the final day of the 104th Congress. There were no hearings and very little debate on the measure which, for the first time in the history of Federal gun control, affected law enforcement officers and members of the military. The law provides a Federal firearms disability for any person convicted, regardless of the date of conviction, for a misdemeanor offense in which domestic violence is an actual or statutory element. The law has had no demonstrable impact in the fight against domestic violence to date, is not being properly enforced on military personnel, and is aimed only at active duty law enforcement officers under the current enforcement strategy. Because of liability concerns, good police officers are losing their jobs for minor offenses committed long before the law passed. What is your position with respect to this law, and would you support legislation to amend it by making its application prospective from the date of original enactment for all persons?
23. Federal funding for State and local law enforcement is a very real concern, especially given the increased homeland security responsibilities of State and local agencies and the impact of deep cuts to our most critical programs in the past two years. How will you work to ensure continued Federal funding for traditional law enforcement programs like the hiring program administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) programs, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) program?
24. If you were a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 112th Congress, how did you vote on 8 May 2012 on the motion to adopt *H. Amdt. 1050 to H.R. 5236, the "Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Appropriations Act, 2013"*? (House Roll Call Vote #212)
25. If you were a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 112th Congress, how did you vote on 8 May 2012 on the motion to adopt *H. Amdt. 1055 to H.R. 5236, the "Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Appropriations Act, 2013"*? (House Roll Call Vote #214)
26. If you were a Member of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary in the 112th Congress, how did you vote on the motion to favorably report *S. 2554, the "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act"*?

27. If you were a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 112th Congress, how did you vote on 16 February 2011 on the consideration of **H. Amdt. 27** as modified to **H.R. 1, the “Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution.”** The amendment restored \$298 million in funds for the hiring program administered by the COPS Office. (*House Roll Call Vote #53*)
28. If you were a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 112th Congress, how did you vote on 3 November 2011 on the motion to instruct conferees “to insist on the highest level of funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs”? (*House Roll Call Vote #822*)
29. If you were a Member of the House Committee on Appropriations, how did you vote on the following:
- Motion to accept a “placeholder” amendment offered by Representative Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Ranking Member on the Appropriations Subcommittee for the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, which would provide \$20 million for the hiring program administered by the COPS Office. (20 July 2011)
 - Motion to accept an amendment offered by Representative Adam B. Schiff (D-CA) to restore \$640 million in funding to the COPS Office, of which \$600 million would go toward the hiring program. (20 July 2011)
 - Motion to accept an amendment offered by Representative Steven R. Rothman (D-NJ) to provide funding for the Secure Our Schools program administered by the COPS office. (20 July 2011)
 - Motion to accept an amendment offered by Representative Steven R. Rothman (D-NJ) to provide \$85 million for the COPS Technology program. (20 July 2011)
30. If you were a Member of the Senate in the 112th Congress, how did you vote on 20 October 2011 on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the consideration of **S. 1723, the “Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act”**? (*Senate Roll Call Vote #177*)
31. Several organizations and many fringe groups have accused State and local law enforcement agencies receiving Federal assistance through the 287(g) program of using these funds to “target communities of color, including disproportionate numbers of Latinos in particular places, for arrest.” The FOP rejects these assertions as hateful and counter to the law enforcement mission. The 287(g) program is a powerful example of a successful cooperative effort between State and local law enforcement and the Federal government. For State and local agencies, the Federal resources provided by the program allow them to pursue investigations relating to violent crimes, human trafficking, gang/organized crime activity, sexual-related offenses, narcotics trafficking and money laundering. It also allows the Federal government to tap into the resources and capabilities of State and local agencies to identify and remove serious and violent criminals who have illegally entered the United States. As a Member of Congress, would you support or expand this program?
32. The FOP strongly supported the REAL ID Act because law enforcement officers need to have confidence that the documents presented to them to establish the identity of a given individual

are accurate. Officers rely on these documents during traffic stops and other law enforcement actions to access information related to that individual's criminal history. As a Member of Congress, will you continue to support it and ensure adequate funding to States for its implementation? Will you pledge to oppose efforts to repeal the law like the "***Providing for Additional Security in States' Identification (PASS ID) Act***"?

33. The FOP supports legislation providing law enforcement with the means to prevent acts of terrorism against the United States or its citizens. For this reason, the FOP has always supported the provisions of the ***Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act***. If you were a Member of the 112th Congress, how did you vote on the following:

- Motion to adopt S. 990, the "PATRIOT Sunsets Extension Act," as amended and passed by the Senate. (*House Roll Call Vote #376*, 26 May 2011)
- Motion to amend and adopt S. 990, the "PATRIOT Sunsets Extension Act," as previously amended in the House. (*Senate Roll Call Vote #84*, 26 May 2011)

34. Provided law enforcement asserts the ongoing need for the statutory authorities contained in the ***USA PATRIOT Act***, will you pledge to support their extension?

35. Because of the increased politicization of firearms issues and the lack of any meaningful public safety component in many legislative proposals, the membership of the FOP adopted a resolution stating that it would not support additional "gun control" legislation beyond our support for the measures signed into law in 1994. Will you seek to push any additional "gun control" measures? If so, what public safety benefit do you expect to achieve and why should the FOP overturn its resolution on this issue?

36. We certainly recognize the prevalence of the term 'first responder' to cover the gamut of public safety disciplines, but the reality is that law enforcement officers are usually the first to respond to any scene or incident. It is the responding law enforcement officer that assesses the situation and then calls for the appropriate public safety response, be it additional law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians or hazardous material response. Every public safety discipline is vital when responding to a critical incident, but we must recognize that, in almost every instance, it is the rank-and-file law enforcement officer who is the first on the scene. The FOP has consistently maintained, throughout the several debates on homeland security funding legislation, that the first priority of the homeland security effort is preventing a terrorist attack and that the "all hazards" approach of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) compromises this priority. The FOP believes that Federal funding does not sufficiently reflect the prevention goal and is geared instead towards purchasing equipment and training to respond to the aftermath of a critical incident. What is your view on the "all hazards" approach and how do you think it impacts law enforcement's role in the war on terror in terms of access to Federal funds?

37. The families of law enforcement officers and other public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty are eligible to receive a one-time death benefit from the Public Safety Officers'

Benefit (PSOB) program. Yet, for the last several years, many of our survivor families have faced great difficulty and resistance from the Office of General Counsel (OGC) which must approve the benefit before the family receives the money. These Federal attorneys see themselves as defending against a claim against the Federal government, instead of a death benefit for a grieving family. The Fraternal Order of Police is currently working with the Administration and on Capitol Hill to examine what reforms might be needed at the PSOB program, but it is possible that there simply needs to be a new perspective at OGC. What steps can you take as a Member of Congress to help these families and expedite the payment of the PSOB death benefit?

38. Since the Fraternal Order of Police is the largest labor organization representing this country's law enforcement professionals, how will you involve and consult with our leadership concerning any legislation, hearings, or other Congressional activity relating to criminal justice issues?