



**INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS
AFL-CIO**

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

JOHN E. O'KEEFE
International Secretary-Treasurer

October 26, 2015

The Honorable Timothy Kaine
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, I urge you to become co-sponsors of S 2034, the "Thin Blue Line Act." This bill provides as an aggravating factor in the consideration of the federal death penalty, the killing of a police officer, Firefighter, EMT, or prosecutor.

The killing of a first responder during the course of his duties or simply because he or she *is* a first responder, is an attack on the very fabric of this nation and we view it as nothing less than urban terrorism. It is a very real threat to every American who simply wishes to live their lives, enjoy their families and friends and go about their days safe from the predators who would deprive them of those basic American ideals. We believe that those who engage in such acts should be subject to the same uncompromising justice as any terrorist who straps a bomb to their chest in order to upset the democratic order of this country.

Senator Toomey, recognizing all of the above, has introduced the Thin Blue Line Act, S. 2034. There are few legislators in Washington, D.C. who do not extol the virtues of American law enforcement officers. Their words are often comforting and reassuring. Your support of Senator Toomey's bill will provide you an opportunity to show by your actions, that those words are not just hollow rhetoric uttered for support during the campaign cycle, but indicate a willingness to stand alongside our brave men and women who provide for the public's safety when they are under attack.

As you know, we represent more than 100,000 active duty rank and file law enforcement professionals across this great nation. Many of our members serve the citizens of Virginia. I look forward to discussing this issue with you or your staff.

Very Respectfully,

Dennis Slocumb
Legislative Director
International Union of Police Associations