



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

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THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Law Enforcement Mental Health Act

President Donald Trump has signed the Law Enforcement Mental Health Act.

On December 21, 2017, this critical piece of legislation was passed by both houses of Congress. The legislation will help agencies create and improve mental health services for law enforcement officers.

The legislation will direct the Department of Justice, Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop resources to equip local law enforcement agencies to address mental health challenges faced by officers. The bill will also make grants available to initiate peer mentoring pilot programs, develop training for mental health providers specific to law enforcement mental health needs, and support law enforcement officers by studying the effectiveness of crisis hotlines and annual mental health checks.

The bill was supported by a bi-partisan majority of Congress. The I.U.P.A. joined many other law enforcement groups to ensure that our representatives were aware of the mental health crises facing our law enforcement community.

I.U.P.A. President Cabral, in commenting on this critical piece of legislation stated, "Our law enforcement officers are daily engaged extremely stressful encounters. There have been countless of our brothers and sisters who have died at their own hands. We hope and pray that this legislation is but a first step in providing them with the confidential and preventative mental health preparation and care they both need and deserve."