



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

*THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS*

SAM A. CABRAL  
*International President*

MICHAEL V. CRIVELLO  
*International Vice-President*

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*International Secretary-Treasurer*

March 30, 2020

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
United States House of Representatives  
2427 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Buchanan:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, representing rank and file, active-duty Law Enforcement professionals across this great nation, of whom thousands serve the people of Florida, as well as in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, I am writing to urge you to introduce legislation that will aid Law Enforcement Officers everywhere.

The Public Safety Officers Benefit (PSOB) was created decades ago to take care of the survivors of first responders who were killed in the line of duty. It has been amended several times to include those who succumb to disease acquired or compounded by their jobs, as evidenced by the deaths still occurring following the events of 9/11.

The recent pandemic is unprecedented in our recent history. Across the country, gatherings are not allowed and people are being asked to remain isolated – this for their own protection and the protection of our society. Not all of us can do so.

Today, and every day, first responders are interacting with people whose medical conditions or history are unknown. In some cases, these interactions involve serious physical contact. Many of these brave men and women have been confirmed COVID-19 cases. Some have died as a result.

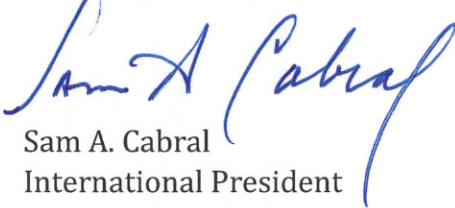
Additionally and painfully, these men and women cannot even safely interact with their own families due to their exposure or even possible exposure.

The PSOB was created specifically to address the survivors of first responders whose deaths are immediately attributable to their sworn duties. Fatal heart attacks are

frequently covered if it can be shown to be related to unusual stress or activity 24 hours preceding the attack. COVID-19 certainly seems to follow that original intent of this critical and meaningful legislation.

I urge you to introduce legislation to that effect and you can count on the I.U.P.A. to support it enthusiastically.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam A. Cabral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" and last name "Cabral" clearly legible.

Sam A. Cabral  
International President