



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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April 28, 2020

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

With all of the many challenging facets of the current COVID-19 pandemic, there is one that has not been mentioned, and could be satisfied with no fiscal impact. I am asking you to facilitate this.

The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act was originally passed in 2004, called HR-218, it provided that retired, credentialed Law Enforcement Officers could carry concealed weapons nationally. There are some exceptions.

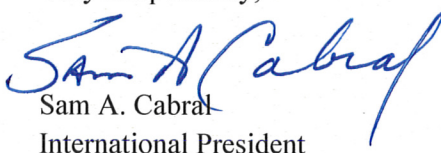
The law requires that the retiree, in order to qualify for his/her CCW must pass a yearly weapons qualification course as prescribed by his department. In that the pandemic has restricted travel in much of the country and due to the fact that many retirees are in the most critical group regarding complications from the Coronavirus, many have found it impossible to renew their HR218 qualification during the first part of 2020 and into the foreseeable future. Many departments are understaffed and unable to meet the demands of those retirees seeking qualification during this time even if they have remained in the areas where they worked.

We believe that the LEOSA should be amended.

More appropriate, would be a CCW issued to qualified retirees for a five-year period. Many states who issue CCW permits to ordinary citizens issue them for a period of years. It would seem that someone who spent his life in law enforcement and has carried a weapon for most of his adult life would be accorded the same treatment. It would actually be fiscally positive for departments who have to use resources providing range staff each year and would recognize that the retired law enforcement officer is much better equipped to handle the responsibility of being armed.

We would value any assistance you could offer in the matter.

Very Respectfully,


Sam A. Cabral
International President