



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL  
*International President*

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*International Secretary-Treasurer*

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May 13, 2022

The Honorable John Katko  
Attn: Tristan Southard  
House of Representatives  
2428 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Katko:

I am writing to call your attention to a critical need for America's law enforcement officers that can be remedied only by federal legislation. I know you are a leader in the House of Representatives on police matters and have been vocal and active in their support.

With the many recent problems facing law enforcement officers, one has received little to no attention nationally. As police officers are being injured at increasing rates, trauma treatment has vastly improved, saving lives that in prior years would have been lost. Officers injured in the line of duty have medical and rehabilitation services provided by workers compensation in most instances, however, most workers compensation services have a cap in either time, money, or both; too often leaving these wounded heroes on their own to either pay for their treatment or forego needed medical intervention.

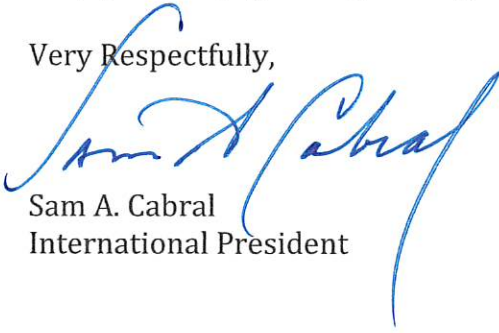
The first of two recent examples is Deputy Nick Tullier, from East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, who was shot in the head in 2015 during an ambush that killed three of his fellow officers. Nick was not supposed to live through the night. He tragically died earlier this month. For several years, Nick received treatment only due to the generosity of doctors and hospitals as well as numerous fundraisers by fellow officers.

In Broward County, Florida, Deputy Maury Hernandez was shot in the head with a 45 caliber handgun by a suspect who should have been incarcerated at the time of his shooting, but was free due to the negligence of the Florida Department of Corrections. This occurred in 2007. As a direct result of the negligence, Deputy Hernandez's life has been forever altered. After three weeks in a coma, he spent months of hospitalizations and then years in an in-patient rehabilitation center. That lasted until his insurance provider discontinued payment to his providers, leaving him with far less medical assistance and care than he requires. He is permanently and tragically disabled.

Officers injured in the line of duty who are permanently and totally disabled deserve and should be eligible for Medicare, which, as you know, would guarantee them lifetime medical care without caps. The cost, when viewed with the framework of the federal budget, would be minimal, but would reflect the responsibility our nation has to these brave men and women who suffer these grievous injuries while protecting their communities.

It is, quite simply, the right thing to do.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam A. Cabral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Sam A. Cabral  
International President