



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL  
*International President*

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May 6, 2022

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
Attn: Jeremy Hekhuis  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

I am writing regarding **S. 2236, "Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act"**. The proposed legislation provides a buy in option for first responders who are 50 to 60 years of age and separated from service due to age, retirement, or disability. While we support this thoughtful legislation, we have identified a critical problem, which this bill does not yet address.

Public safety officers who are critically injured in the line of duty, but have not yet reached the age of 50 are not included. Too often, in part thanks to the advances in trauma care, men and women are surviving wounds that in years past would have been fatal. Many live long past the time that state workers compensation caps are realized, either in time or money. They are then left with continuing medical expenses and no means of paying for those.

A tragic example is Deputy Nick Tullier, who just succumbed to injuries he sustained on duty when he was one of the officers ambushed in Baton Rouge. Three officers were killed and Nick was not supposed to live through the night. This was in July of 2016. Deputy Tullier was 40 years old at the time of the incident. He long ago ran out of workers compensation coverage and was kept alive through his family, various fundraisers, and the generosity of doctors and hospitals over the past six years. This is unconscionable.

We are asking for either new legislation to address this deficiency or an amendment to your current legislation that removes the age restrictions for access to Medicare in the case of public safety officers who are critically injured in the line of duty. It could be called the Nick Tullier Act of 2022 and would serve to offer lifetime support to those who have sacrificed so much for this great nation.

Ambushes of law enforcement officers are an epidemic in recent years and Nick Tullier will not be the last person so affected. It is incumbent upon our nation to protect and care for those who sacrifice so much to protect their communities. It is manifestly the right thing to do.

Our Legislative Director is Dennis J. Slocumb, and he can be reached at (703) 919-7142 for further discussion or information. We will work hard to make this needed legislation become reality.

I thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Very Respectfully,



Sam A. Cabral  
International President