



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE – PENNSYLVANIA STATE LODGE

PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

January 25, 2017

Dear Senator,

On behalf of over 50,000 active and retired Police Officers and Firefighters across Pennsylvania, the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge and the Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association ask that you strongly oppose recent proposed legislation that will cause grave harm to Pennsylvania's heroes and their families.

As sworn public safety personnel, Police Officers and Firefighters risk their lives each day to protect citizens, businesses and property throughout Pennsylvania. Our members do not hesitate to place themselves in harm's way to keep Pennsylvanians safe. They run into burning buildings, they are assaulted and killed, they rush into danger when others flee to safety, all because they took an oath to live their lives according to a higher standard. In return, all they ask for is a fair shake.

Over 50 years ago, Pennsylvania's Constitution was amended in order to provide that "fair shake", by permitting the basic protections that are afforded to Police Officers and Firefighters under the Policemen and Firemen Collective Bargaining Act, commonly known as Act 111. Since then, Act 111 has represented a sacred compact between Police Officers, Firefighters and the citizens that they risk their lives to protect. In good times and in bad, that compact has served Pennsylvanians well.

Recently, a group of special interests has attempted to launch an unprecedented and unwarranted attack on Pennsylvania's heroes by introducing legislation that would eviscerate Act 111. That effort, based on a recent co-sponsorship memo distributed by

Senator John Eichelberger, would thank Police Officers and Firefighters for their sacrifices by throwing away the bedrock rights that the Constitution was amended to provide them with many years ago.

Senator Eichelberger's attack on Pennsylvania's Heroes is baseless and shameful, and it stands to harm the men and women who lay down their lives each year to keep Pennsylvania safe. In response to this threat, Pennsylvania's Police Officers and Firefighters have formed the **Pennsylvania Heroes Coalition**, so that we can speak with **one voice** to ask our elected leaders to do one thing - **protect the heroes who protect you and your constituents, by protecting and preserving Act 111.**

In times of tragedy and loss, which occur all too frequently for our members and their families, we are often asked the same question by our elected officials - how can we help? Typically, Police Officers and Firefighters don't ask for anything in response. We accept the risks that go with our callings, because we know in our hearts that we are doing the right thing.

Today, however, and on behalf of 50,000 Police Officers and Firefighters and their families, we are asking for something, the most important thing. We are asking that you show your support for Pennsylvania's Heroes by supporting the basic protections represented by Act 111. We respectfully request that you **oppose** Senator Eichelberger's proposed legislation and any similar attack on Pennsylvania's Police Officers, Firefighters and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter. And thank you for your continued support for Pennsylvania's heroes.



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