



May 8, 2019

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Joshua Hawley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Senator Hawley,

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, I am writing to express our support for the *Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis (STOIC) Act of 2019* (S. 998). The success of this legislation would expand the availability of services for police officers and their families, which are critical to maintaining the mental health and wellness of our law enforcement community.

The IACP represents over 30,000 law enforcement leaders across the globe. One of our top priorities in support of these dedicated men and women is to promote and educate the field on officer safety and wellness and to assist agencies in aiding their officers. The challenging effects of job stress on both officers and their families requires both a response to acutely traumatic events and an ongoing commitment to psychological wellness.

In recent years, the number of officers who die by suicide each year is higher than the number of officers killed in the line of duty. We recognize the responsibility of our association and others to intercede to stop this trajectory. Agencies must learn to recognize the signs of psychological distress and respond to officers, in turn, with options for psychological services, crisis intervention and stress management, chaplaincy services, and support for family members. To accomplish this effectively, agencies need support, which is why S. 998 is immensely helpful.

The *STOIC Act* not only amends existing law to improve and expand these services, but it also provides \$7.5 million in federal funding to accomplish that goal. Finally, this bill includes language committing

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these efforts to be evidence-based and data-driven, which helps ensure that resources are expended where they are needed and can be most effective in assisting officers.

On behalf of our nation's law enforcement executives, we hope you will act swiftly to pass this important legislation. The IACP stands ready to assist you as we continue to work together on issues important to policing and our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Cell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "C".

Paul M. Cell
President, IACP