FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 7, 2018

FOP and IACP Applaud Senate for the Passage of the First Step Act

Nation’s most prominent law enforcement organizations commend the U.S. Senate for monumental action on criminal justice reform

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), and Chief Paul M. Cell, President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the leaders of the nation’s most prominent law enforcement organizations, congratulate the U.S. Senate for passing landmark criminal justice legislation, the First Step Act. The legislation, which was endorsed by both organizations, was developed by Congress and the Administration in close consultation with the FOP and the IACP.

“Both the FOP and IACP are committed to making meaningful changes to our criminal justice system,” Canterbury explained. “The provisions of this legislation are in keeping with our shared mission—keeping our officers and the public safe. Due to the close engagement of the FOP and the IACP with the Administration and Congress throughout this process, the First Step Act is a very good anti-crime bill that will greatly improve our nation’s criminal justice system.”

“The leadership that the FOP and IACP have shown by engaging in this good faith effort has yielded real and tangible results,” said Cell. “First Step is a real opportunity to make our nation’s criminal justice system safer and fairer for all, and we urge the U.S. House of Representatives to quickly act on this much needed legislation.”

The bill passed the Senate on an overwhelming 87-12 vote and now goes to the U.S. House of Representatives, which is expected to take up the measure on Thursday.

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The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 345,000 members.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is the world’s largest and most influential professional association for police leaders. With more than 31,000 members in 150 countries, the IACP is a recognized leader in global policing. Since 1893, the association has been speaking out on behalf of law enforcement and advancing leadership and professionalism in policing worldwide.