



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS

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ADDING HEALTHCARE COVERAGE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS ACT

BACKGROUND

The Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Act was designed to offer peace of mind to men and women seeking careers in public safety and to make a strong statement about the value that American society places on the contributions of those who serve their communities in potentially dangerous circumstances. The families of public safety officers who have fallen or have become completely and permanently disabled in the line of duty rely on the benefits promised to them by the PSOB to continue on with their lives and make ends meet.

The PSOB not only provides death benefits to the eligible survivors of public safety officers, but also financial assistance for higher education for the spouses and children of federal, state, and local public safety officers through the Public Safety Officers Education Assistance (PSOEA) Act. Healthcare coverage as a PSOB benefit is now becoming increasingly necessary, given the continuously escalating costs of healthcare.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

110th Congress (2007-2009)

- H.R. 2391, the "Public Safety Officer Family Health Benefits Act." Introduced by Bart Stupak (D-MI) on May 17, 2007. On 5/24/2007, H.R. 2391 was referred to the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Post Office, and the District of Columbia. As of 1/3/2008, no further action has been taken on the bill. It has the support of 5 cosponsors.

109th Congress (2005-2007)

- H.R. 4424, a bill that would make family members of public safety officers killed in the line of duty eligible for coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) program. Introduced by Bart Stupak (D-MI). On 11/18/2005, H.R. 4424 was referred to the House Government Reform Committee. No further action was taken on the bill. It had the support of 18 co-sponsors.

For information on the legislative history of this issue prior to the 108th Congress please contact the NAPO office at (800) 322-NAPO (6276).

NAPO POSITION

Healthcare coverage as a PSOB benefit would remove a great financial burden from the loved ones of those who so selflessly gave their lives for the safety of our communities. NAPO adopted support for this change as a resolution at our 2005 Annual Convention and has since worked with Congressman Stupak to add healthcare coverage as an additional and much needed benefit to the PSOB in order to provide further protection to law enforcement officers and their families. We will continue to actively support this legislation until it is passed.