

Nearly 70 Law Enforcement Leaders Support First Responders Bill

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write in support of the Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Support Act (H.R. 6580), a bill that would help the families of first responders who die in the line of duty. The bill passed the House by voice vote on September 25, 2018. We encourage you to support the Kerrie Orozco Act and ask that the Senate pass the bill before the end of the 115th U.S. Congress.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Don Bacon (R-Nebraska), allows a surviving spouse, child or parent of a U.S. citizen first responder who died in service or as a result of their service to apply for U.S. citizenship more quickly by waiving the five-year continuous residence and the 30-month physical presence requirements for naturalization. The bill requires that the surviving spouse, child or parent still meet all other requirements for naturalization, such as being a lawful permanent resident, having good moral character, and being able to read, write, and speak in English.

The Kerrie Orozco Act is named after fallen Omaha Police Officer Kerrie Orozco, a seven-year veteran of the department killed in the line of duty in 2015. Her husband, Hector Orozco, became a single father, while also facing a wait time of five years before he could apply for U.S. citizenship.

As law enforcement leaders, we support the Kerrie Orozco Act because it recognizes the sacrifice that families of first responders make when a spouse, child or parent dies in service to his or her community. Patterned after legal provisions that allow members of Gold Star Families to naturalize after the death of active-duty service members killed in military service, this bill would aid the families of those who sacrifice their lives in the line of duty, allowing them to find stability and permanence at a particularly difficult time.

We encourage you to support the Kerrie Orozco Act and pass the bill before the end of the

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year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chief J. Thomas Manger, LEITF Co-Chair
Montgomery County, MD

Chief Art Acevedo, LEITF Co-Chair
Houston, TX

Sheriff Margaret Mims, LEITF Co-Chair
Fresno County, CA

Executive Director Chuck Wexler
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)

Executive Director Dwayne Crawford
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

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Tuscaloosa, AL

Chief Hayes Minor
Rogers, AR

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Mesa, AZ

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Santa Cruz County, AZ

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Signatures updated as of December 12, 2018 10 am ET

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