



LAW ENFORCEMENT IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

December 2, 2019

Dear Member of Congress:

We write in support of the Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Support Act ([H.R. 2378](#)), a bill that would help the families of public safety officers who die in the line of duty. A very similar bill ([H.R. 6580](#)) passed the House of Representatives in September 2018 but did not receive a Senate vote before the end of the 115th Congress. The bill was re-introduced in the House on April 29, 2019, by Rep. Don Bacon (R-Nebraska) with original co-sponsors from both parties. We encourage you to support the Kerrie Orozco Act and pass this bipartisan bill in both the House and Senate.

H.R. 2378 would allow a surviving spouse, child or parent of a U.S. citizen public safety officer 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 bill 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 public safety officers 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 bipartisan Kerrie Orozco First Responders Family Support Act and pass H.R. 2378.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Chief Art Acevedo, *LEITF Co-Chair*
Houston, TX

Chief Carmen Best, *LEITF Co-Chair*
Seattle, WA

Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)

Executive Director Chuck Wexler
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)



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Signatures updated as of December 2, 2019 10 am ET