



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

April 25, 2019

Congresswoman Madeleine Dean
129 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Guy Reschenthaler
531 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representatives Dean and Reschenthaler:

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the nation's largest suicide prevention organization, is pleased to support your bipartisan legislation, the "Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis (STOIC) Act of 2019." This critical legislation will provide much needed support to our nation's law enforcement officers and their families.

Law enforcement personnel face unique challenges and experience a variety of stressors on a regular basis, and support services have failed to adequately address the increasing numbers of law enforcement officers dying by suicide. Today, more law enforcement officers die by suicide than in the line of duty, including 160 suicides in 2018 alone. Those that protect and serve us face unique mental health challenges that must be addressed.

The STOIC Act will provide a greater scope of mental health resources and more support for law enforcement officers and their families. AFSP applauds the inclusion of suicide prevention programs and the increase of funding for much needed mental health resources. This legislation is a strong step towards prioritization of law enforcement mental health and suicide prevention.

AFSP strongly supports the "Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act of 2019." We offer our assistance where we can, and urge your colleagues to swiftly pass this bill into law

Members of our AFSP Public Policy Office staff stand ready and willing to assist in reaching out to additional House offices. Please reach out to Connor Jobes (202-449-3600 ext. 1102) or cjobes@afsp.org or Natalie Tietjen (202-449-3600 ext. 1107) or ntietjen@afsp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Madigan, Jr."

John H. Madigan, Jr.
Senior Vice President and Chief Public Policy Officer

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. AFSP creates a culture that's smart about mental health through education and community programs, develops suicide prevention through research and advocacy, and provides support for those affected by suicide. Led by CEO Robert Gebbia and headquartered in New York, with an Advocacy office in Washington, DC, AFSP has local chapters in all 50 states with programs and events nationwide. Learn more about AFSP in its latest Annual Report, and join the conversation on suicide prevention by following AFSP on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.