

# SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

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**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

EDWARD D. MULLINS

May 1, 2019

The Honorable Guy Reschenthaler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Reschenthaler:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 2368, the *Supporting and Treating Officers In Crisis (STOIC) Act*. We appreciate your work on this important and timely legislation.

Suicide has become the number one cause of death for police officers in recent years. According to Blue H.E.L.P., a non-profit organization that tracks law enforcement suicides, at least 160 police officers nationwide took their own lives in 2018, outnumbering line of duty deaths for the third straight year. As officer suicides continue to rise, federal funding for officer mental health and suicide prevention has not kept pace. The last authorization for the federal government's grant program for law enforcement family-support services expired in 2000 and is in desperate need of reform and funding.

The *STOIC Act* would reform the federal grant program that provides support for law enforcement officers and their families to better address the mental health and support needs of this community, especially with regard to suicide prevention. Recipients of funding from the reformed program would be authorized to establish suicide prevention programs and support officers experiencing various mental health issues. Most importantly, this legislation will also provide up to \$7.5 million to help fund these critical programs. Reauthorizing this program is critical to law enforcement officers and their families and the SBA is proud to work with you to see H.R. 2368 enacted into law.

On behalf of the membership of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Washington Representatives Andrew Siff and Chris Granberg at (202) 457-7756, if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ed Mullins  
President

