

**The Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers' Benefits  
Program Expansion Act of 2026**

Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Ted Cruz (R-TX)  
Representatives Randy Weber (R-TX-14) and Dave Min (D-CA-47)

*The Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program Expansion Act of 2026 would amend the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program to speed up benefit determinations and extend benefits to permanently disabled officers currently excluded from the program.*

Public safety officers take extraordinary risks day in and day out to keep our communities safe. When tragedy strikes and an officer loses their life or becomes permanently disabled because of their heroic work, Congress has a responsibility to look out for them and their family.

Congress established the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program in 1976 to provide death benefits to survivors of officers who have died in the line of duty. Through the years, PSOB has been amended to provide disability and education benefits, and to expand benefit eligibility. Despite these amendments, the program has been marked by delayed adjudication of death and disability claims. Additionally, not all public safety officers who become permanently disabled as a result of a line of duty injury are able to receive benefits. With further improvements to PSOB, we can ensure our nation's heroes and their families receive the support they need.

*The Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program Expansion Act of 2026* amends the PSOB program in several ways to improve processing times for fallen and disabled officers' benefit applications and provide partial benefits for permanently, but not totally, disabled officers. Specifically, the bill would:

- Require the BJA to complete a death or disability eligibility determination within 270 days of receiving a complete claim
- Require the BJA to use its subpoena authority if a public agency fails to provide requested documentation in relation to a claimant's case
- Extend partial PSOB eligibility to officers who are permanently, but not totally, disabled and are unable to perform any gainful work as a public safety officer as a direct result of the injury
- Expedite processing for officers already certified for benefits through the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) or the September 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund (VCF)
- Direct BJA to implement GAO recommendations to establish updated program processes and administrative procedures

## **Endorsements:**

### **National Organizations**

- American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
- Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)
- National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
- National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)
- The National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
- United States Deputy Sheriff's Association
- Voices Center for Resilience

### **State Organizations**

- Uniformed Firefighters Association of Greater New York
- NYPD Sergeants Benevolent Association
- Austin Police Association
- California Association of Highway Patrolmen
- City of Syracuse New York Fire Department
- City of Syracuse New York Police Department
- City of Utica Fire Department
- FDNY EMS Local 2507 Uniformed EMTs Paramedics & Fire Inspectors Union
- Firefighter's Association of the State of New York
- Friends of Firefighters
- Nassau County Superior Officers Association
- New York State Association of Chiefs of Police
- New York Law Enforcement Assistance Program (NYLEAP)
- NYPD Captains Endowment Association
- Orange County Sheriff's Department
- Peace Officers Research Association of California
- Pittsford Volunteer Ambulance, Inc.
- Police Chiefs' Association of Orange County
- Port Authority of NY & NJ Detectives Endowment Association
- Port Authority Police Lieutenants Benevolent Association
- Riverside Sheriffs' Association
- San Diego Police Officers Association
- The Police Benevolent Association of the New York State Troopers
- Town of Brighton Police Department
- Town of Hyde Park Police Department
- Village of Tuckahoe Police