

Another tragic event at the US Capital on April 2, 2021. Capital Police Officer, Billy Evans was struck and killed by a vehicle whose driver was attempting to breach a barricade at the United States Capital.

Officer Evens and other officers were stationed outside the north vehicle access point along Constitution Ave. The driver intentionally drove into Officer Evens and a second officer was struck as well. The driver exited the vehicle after crashing into the barricade. He was armed with a knife and came after other officers with it. The suspect was shot and killed at the scene.

Officer Evans was put into a patrol car and transported to a nearby hospital, but pronounced deceased shortly after arriving. Officer Evans has been with the United States Capital Police for 18 years.

United States Capital Police are severely understaffed by over 230 officers. They have faced tremendous challenges due to this. One of them being the Capital siege on January 6, 2021. They are constantly dealing with numerous crowds and protestors on a day-to-day basis.

Keep the two officers who have died at that agency in the first months of 2021 in your thoughts and prayers. Pray for their families as well.

Health Insurance

We do get questions about health insurance from our members during the plan year. Some of those questions are about opting out of our insurance coverages. I have written about this before, along with having past discussions on the topic at our board meetings. The simple answer is because we are an ERISA trust, meaning our plan assets are held in trust and are protected from claims from the County of Fresno – there is not an opt out option.

Our Unit 1 MOU with the County of Fresno is where the item is very clear and why there is a 100% enrollment for an ERISA trust. The County makes contributions on behalf of all employees and/or dependents in a classification to the Trust irrespective of the employee's membership status in the association. I am attaching a copy of the MOU language as a refresher for all of you. These contributions go directly into the insurance trust and pay the insurance bill through the different carriers. Example: Health, Dental, Life, Vision.

I wanted to just give a quick update on this since I haven't in a couple years and have had a couple general questions lately about it.

The Association and County further agree that should either state or federal statutes mandate that the parties to this MOU participate in a national or state health care plan or system, the parties agree to meet and confer on the impact of such plan or system.

Effective December 14, 2020, the County will contribute up to the following amounts per pay period based on the employee's plan selection:

<u>Plan Selection</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total Contribution</u>
• Employee Only	\$298	\$0 = \$298
• Employee plus Child(ren)	\$298 + \$150	= \$448
• Employee plus Spouse	\$298 + \$150	= \$448
• Employee plus Family	\$298 + \$150	= \$448

PORAC Efforts on SB2

I am attaching the email that came from PORAC on April 1, 2021 regarding opposition to SB2 and the way it is currently written today. This bill was introduced by Senator Bradford in an attempt to dampen the current law enforcement officer's support by California government officials. This has nothing to do with helping an officer or agency, but rather hurting the moral and recruitment/retention of such officers. Please respond to this via the PORAC email that was sent to you. If it was not sent, let me or our office staff know so we can get an updated email contact from you. This is extremely important in 2021 for law enforcement labor to have a seat at the table helping craft language that will go into this bill. Your POST certificate will essentially become a license, with a radical set of regulations, if we don't make our voice(s) heard.

By clicking **HERE** and pressing send on the pre-written email, you can help to oppose Senate Bill 2 – dangerous legislation that would not only create an unfair and unreliable process for revoking an officer's license to practice law enforcement but also reaches far beyond police licensing to include policies that would place even the most respectful officers at risk of being personally liable for honest mistakes, even if they acted in accordance with the law.

The newly introduced bill is problematic for a number of reasons, as it will:

- Create an inherently amateurish and potentially biased panel to oversee the process of revoking an officer's license to practice law enforcement, ignoring our country's tradition of due process and subjecting officers to an unfair review of their actions where the deck is stacked against them.
- Force taxpayers to foot the bill to support a dramatic spike in unfounded lawsuits against public employees and multi-million-dollar payouts.
- Force officers to think twice before entering into potentially dangerous scenarios, putting our families and communities at increased risk of harm.
- Remove the legal requirement that officers actually intended to violate a person's civil rights, opening the floodgates of litigation against officers any time they are accused of making a mistake – not just law enforcement.

By clicking [HERE](#), you can help to oppose SB 2, dangerous and short-sighted legislation that will put our law enforcement community and the public at risk. It only takes a few seconds: [Take Action to Protect Public Employees from Frivolous Lawsuits](#).

Neal Reintroduces Legislation to Fix Social Security WEP Provision, Improve Public Employees' Retirement Security

In congress, Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-MA) reintroduced his groundbreaking legislation, the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021, to fix the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) for future retirees and provide meaningful relief to current WEP retirees. The bill ensures that public servants across the nation can retire with the security and dignity they deserve.

The legislation establishes a new, fairer formula that will pay Social Security benefits in proportion to the share of a worker's earnings that were covered for Social Security purposes. This provision is coupled with a benefit guarantee ensuring no benefit cuts relative to current law for all current and future retirees. Current WEP retirees will receive \$150 a month in relief payments.

"The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act garnered more support in Congress last year than any previous WEP reform bill. This year, I look forward to building on that momentum to advance the bill even further, and we're off to a running start with 139 original cosponsors," **said Chairman Neal**. "The WEP negatively affects nearly 2 million retired public servants across the country, including 83,000 in Massachusetts. Public employees like firefighters, teachers, and police officers should not miss out on the Social Security benefits they earned over decades of hard work. With this legislation, these valued members of our communities will have greater retirement security and peace of mind."

Originally, the WEP was intended to equalize the Social Security benefit formula for workers with similar earnings histories, both inside and outside of the Social Security system. However, in practice, it unfairly penalizes many public employees. The much-needed reforms in this bill provide meaningful WEP relief to current retirees and public employees while treating all workers fairly.

"Members on both sides of the aisle can get behind this legislation and the solutions it puts forward," **added Chairman Neal**. "I want to commend Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Kevin Brady for his longstanding work to address the WEP issue. I appreciate his commitment to fixing this problem, and look forward to working with him to move a solution through Congress expediently."

The following materials are available on the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021:

- [Overview of the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2021](#)
- [Section-by-section summary](#)
- [Bill text](#)
- [Estimate from the Social Security Administration Chief Actuary](#)

The bill has been endorsed by the following organizations:

- *National organizations:* Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), National Association of Retired ASCS/FSA Office Employees (RASCOE), National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM), National Conference of State Social Security Administrators (NCSSSA), National Education Association (NEA), National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), Public Retirees Alliance, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Social Security Works, United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA).
- *State and local organizations:* American Federation of Teachers (AFT)-Massachusetts, Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA), Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police (LACP), Louisiana Sheriffs' Association (LSA), Mass Retirees, Massachusetts Coalition of Police (Mass COP), New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA), Oakland Police Officers' Association (OPOA), Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS), **Police Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)**, Retired Educators Association of Massachusetts (REAM), Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA), Western States Sheriffs' Association (WSSA).

There will be a number of issues arising this year that we in law enforcement labor will have to deal with, just due to so much being at a standstill in 2020 due to COVID19.

Again, I offer, those who have not been vaccinated and wish to receive the vaccination can still do so. Please contact me and we will make the accommodation so you can get that taken care of for yourself.

Stay safe and take care of one another.

Eric