



Fraternal Order of Police
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TESTIMONY

LEE HOLLAND, PRESIDENT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
LODGE 35

SB 406 - WORKERS' COMPENSATION - OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE PRESUMPTIONS -
FIRST RESPONDERS

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Griffith and honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 35 and our more than 1400 active and retired Montgomery County Law Enforcement Officers, I write in strong support of SB406, and I ask for a favorable report.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is pervasive among our members, Montgomery County Police, as well as other first responders. For Police specifically, we regularly respond to and are exposed to dangerous and horrific events that are traumatic both physically and emotionally. In many cases, these are among the most tragic and horrific situations and scenes imaginable, including extreme acts of violence, maimed bodies, life-threatening conditions, and other scenarios that are traumatic, heartbreaking and difficult to reconcile. While a single event can be enough to trigger PTSD, exposure to potentially hundreds or thousands of such events over the course of a Police Officer's career, can have long-lasting debilitating effects that impair that Officer's health and ability to function productively.

Workers Compensation law covers Heart Disease and Hypertension as conditions that are presumed to be service connected, given the extraordinary stress and traumatic conditions of our work. However, the law does not currently recognize Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that often times parallels Heart Disease and other service connected health conditions. This legislation appropriately recognizes Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a condition that should be presumed to be service connected.

For these reasons, we thank Senator Kagan for sponsoring SB604, and we ask for a favorable committee report.

Respectfully,

Lee G. Holland
President
Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 35