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FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE PENNSYLVANIA STATE LODGE

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OCCUBT 348

July 19, 2016

Hon. Frank Burns 323 Main Capitol Building PO Box 202072 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2072

Re: HB 2261 PN 3733

Dear Representative Burns,

On behalf of over 40,000 active and retired Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Officers, the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge, appreciates your support of HB 2261 PN 3733. This bill would amend Title 18, Pa. C.S.A. Chapter 27, Assault, to further provide for the offense of ethnic intimidation by adding employment as a law enforcement officer to the list of enumerated aggravating circumstances.

Law enforcement personnel have been singled out for attacks across the country, just because they wear the uniform, most recently in Baton Rouge and Dallas where eight police officers tragically lost their lives. This legislation will give law enforcement officers as well as corrections officers at state or county institutions, additional protections under the states' "hate crimes" statute by raising the penalties for such heinous crimes.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives daily so the people of this Commonwealth can enjoy peace and security. They deserve the highest level of protection from targeted acts of violence the law can provide.

The FOP Pennsylvania State Lodge supports HB 2261 PN 3733 and thanks you for your continued support of Pennsylvania's law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

Joseph Regan, Chairman Legislative Committee Fraternal Order of Police Pennsylvania State Lodge