



National Troopers Coalition

PRESS RELEASE

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Washington, D.C. – The National Troopers Coalition (NTC) which represents over 45,000 State Troopers throughout the country proudly supports Senator Toomey’s legislation, the Thin Blue Line Act (S.2034).

The Thin Blue Line Act expands the list of aggravating factors for the death penalty to include if the murder victim was a federal law enforcement officer or prosecutor. NTC Chairman Andrew Matthews commended Senator Toomey for expanding existing federal guidelines governing penalties for the murder of a law enforcement official to now include state and local law enforcement.

“Our troopers who are killed in the line of duty deserve the full force of federal penalties and protections,” said Matthews. Law enforcement officers are tempting targets to criminals seeking retribution and to organized crime rings seeking to deter law enforcement officers from investigating their criminal conduct. Federal sentencing guidelines and federal statute governing the death penalty already provide for harsher penalties for crimes against law enforcement officers.

Thin Blue Line Act would apply the aggravating factor to encompass the death of state and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors, and firefighters—federal, state, and local. Also under current law, if the defendant was attempting to kill one person, but accidentally killed another, the defendant may still be eligible for the death penalty. Under the Thin Blue Line Act if the defendant was attempting to kill a federal or state law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or firefighter (federal, state, or local), this targeting constitutes an aggravating factor. The law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or firefighter who was killed or targeted must have been targeted while he or she was acting in the line of duty, or targeted because of his or her status as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or prosecutor.

Endorsing Groups

C.O.P.S. (Concerns of Police Survivors) • Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association • Fraternal Order of Police • International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO • Major County Sheriffs’ Association • National Association of Police Organizations • National Sheriffs’ Association) • National Troopers Coalition