



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

26 September 2018

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
Homeland Security and Investigations
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Shelia Jackson Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
Homeland Security and Investigations
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman and Representative Jackson Lee,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our position on the legalization and regulation of sports betting at the State level as well as on the failed Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA), which was recently struck down by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The FOP is an active member of the advisory council of the American Sports Betting Coalition (ASBC), a coalition of law enforcement and other organizations which called for the repeal of the 25-year old ban on sports wagering in the United States. While well-intentioned, the PASPA has failed to stem the tide of sports betting and has instead encouraged an explosion in illegal, unregulated wagering. No one knows for sure how much is illegally wagered on sports each year, but the estimates are staggering—between \$150 to \$500 billion. During Super Bowl LII in 2018, Americans wagered \$4.8 billion, and only three percent of these bets were placed legally. During the NCAA Men's Basketball tournament this year, it is estimated that \$10.4 billion wagers were made, only \$295 million of which were legal.

Today, these illegal wagers take place in markets operating outside the reach of law enforcement with no regulatory oversight, no means of protecting the integrity of the games and no safeguards for consumers. This illegal sports betting marketplace fuels criminal enterprises, hides money laundering, and facilitates other illicit activities.

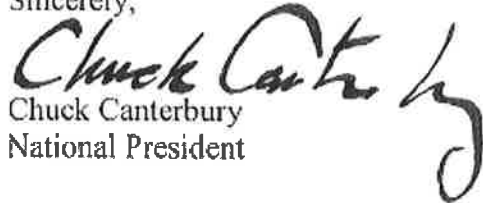
For this reason, the FOP and other law enforcement organizations concluded that legalization and regulation of sports betting is the best public safety solution. Clearly, the PASPA did not work, and according to the Supreme Court, it was also unconstitutional. Congress should allow States to work with law enforcement and other stakeholders to create a legal, regulated marketplace. This will give consumers what they want and allow law enforcement to protect the public and stop the flow of illegal money flowing into criminal organizations.

Now that the PASPA has been struck down and the authority to regulate this activity has been returned to the States where it belongs, all stakeholders—at the Federal and State levels, as

well as the public and private sectors—must work together to put an end to the illegal sports betting market. Federal law enforcement should focus on the pursuit of criminals and their organizations beyond the jurisdiction of State and local law enforcement and leave the regulation of sports betting to the States that elect to allow it. This, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, is the best option from the public safety perspective.

On behalf of the more than 335,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you both for holding this important hearing and for considering our views on this issue. If I can be of any additional help, please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President