

*“Those who responded in the aftermath of 9/11 risked their lives. As a 9/11 family member and a director of an organization that provides long-term support services for all those impacted, I strongly support the Benefits Program Expansion Act of 2026 that provides essential benefits and improves the processing times for fallen and disabled officers,”* **said Executive Director and President Mary Fetchet of the Voices Center for Resilience.**

*“This legislation represents a meaningful, bipartisan commitment to the public safety professionals who put their lives on the line for our communities — including EMS professionals whose service is often invisible until crisis strikes. By establishing clear timelines, strengthening oversight, and ensuring interim financial support, this bill brings long-needed fairness and predictability to the PSOB program for injured responders and surviving families,”* **said Chief and CEO Jonathan D. Smith of the Pittsford Volunteer Ambulance, Inc.** *“These expanded disability provisions recognize the realities faced by permanently injured EMS and fire professionals who can no longer serve, while expediting benefits for 9/11 responders and improving survivor protections. Together, these reforms strengthen trust, improve accountability, ensure the PSOB program works as intended, and reaffirm our national commitment to care for and support our public safety professionals and their families.”*

*“The California Association of Highway Patrolmen (CAHP) is pleased to support the Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program Expansion Act of 2026,”* **said Jake Johnson, CAHP President.** *“This legislation takes meaningful steps to ensure that families of fallen and severely injured officers receive timely, transparent, and fair access to the federal benefits they deserve.”*

*“I strongly support the Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program Expansion Act of 2026 to strengthen and modernize the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program,”* **said Chief Michael J. Monds of the City of Syracuse New York Fire Department.** *“Members of the Syracuse Fire Department, along with firefighters, police officers, and emergency responders across this nation, put their lives on the line every day in service to our community and our country. They and their families deserve a system that delivers timely benefit determinations, protects surviving beneficiaries from unfair tax burdens, and ensures that permanently disabled public safety officers are not excluded from the support they have earned. This legislation honors their sacrifice and reinforces our commitment to stand behind those who serve. I thank Senator Gillibrand for her leadership and advocacy in advancing this critical effort.”*

*“I support the Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program Expansion Act of 2026 in order to amend the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) Program,”* **said Chief Mark Rusin of the City of Syracuse New York Police Department.** *“Those working in law enforcement in the Syracuse Police Department and across the United States deserve timely benefit determinations, preventing unfair taxation of surviving beneficiaries, and extend benefits to permanently disabled officers that currently excluded from the program. I thank Senator Gillibrand for her advocacy in this effort.”*

*“On behalf of the men and women of the Utica Fire Department, I strongly support the Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program Expansion Act of 2026,”* **said Fire Chief Scott Ingersoll of the City of Utica Fire Department.** *“When a firefighter, police officer, or other public safety professional is killed or suffers a career-ending injury in the line of duty, their families should not face unnecessary delays, administrative obstacles, or unfair tax burdens while seeking the benefits they have earned through sacrifice. I want to thank Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for her continued leadership on behalf of first responders and for advancing bipartisan efforts to strengthen the support systems these heroes rely on.”*

*“I applaud the work of Senator Gillibrand in working tirelessly to make these necessary changes to the PSOB,”* **said Gary Smiley, World Trade Center Liaison of the FDNY EMS Local 2507 Uniformed EMTs, Paramedics & Fire Inspectors Union.** *“These changes and realistic updates will ensure that injured and disabled Public Safety Officers, including those who suffer from WTC related illness will have a less challenging time receiving their needed and deserved benefits.”*

*“This legislation represents a meaningful and long-overdue improvement to the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) Program,”* **said Nancy Carbone, Founder and Executive Director of the Friends of Firefighters.** *“We strongly support its provisions to require timely communication and determinations by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, including notification within 90 days if a claim is incomplete and completion of death or disability determinations within 270 days of receiving a complete claim. These measures introduce accountability and predictability into a process that has too often been marked by prolonged delays. Of particular importance to our community is the extension of partial PSOB eligibility to officers who are permanently, but not totally, disabled and unable to perform any gainful work as public safety officers. These individuals have sacrificed their health in the line of duty and should not be excluded from support because of technical distinctions that do not reflect the reality of their injuries.”*

*“Police officers risk their lives everyday and many are injured on a daily basis. This bill will help our injured officers and their families and is a step in the right direction,”* **said President Ricky Frassetto of the Nassau County Superior Officers Association.** *“I would like to thank Senators Gillibrand and Cruz for moving this forward.”*

*“Our Association is in support of this important legislation,”* **said Chief Paul J. Oliva of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police**

*“This important legislation is critical to providing desperately needed financial support to families of critically injured or killed Public Safety Officers within more reasonable time frames than before,”* **said Vice President Matthew Carpenter, PhD of the New York Law Enforcement Assistance Program (NYLEAP).** *“Families facing the challenges to continue after tragedy that critically injures or kills their loved ones who were protecting our communities should not have to wait outrageous lengths of time for the financial support they need and deserve.”*

*“This legislation to reform the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program—with strict deadlines, interim payments, and stronger oversight—finally delivers a timely and transparent process. These changes honor the sacrifices of peace officers by ensuring swift benefits and real accountability for those who serve,”* said **Brian R. Marvel, President of the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)**. *“We’re grateful to Senators Gillibrand and Cruz, along with Representative Min, for championing this legislation, which will end the endless delays and bureaucratic excuses.”*

*“Thank you for your continued support of Organized Law Enforcement. All your efforts for the Protection of disabled Law Enforcement and the care of fallen Officer's families is greatly appreciated by the Port Authority Police Lieutenants Benevolent Association,”* said **James Griglio, President of the Port Authority Police Lieutenants Benevolent Association**.

*“The PBA of New York State is immensely grateful to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Senator Ted Cruz for their bipartisan effort to pass this commonsense act,”* said **President James McCartney of the Police Benevolent Association of the New York State Troopers**. *“Our members serving as New York State Forest Rangers and Environmental Conservation Officers perform some of the most technically advanced and dangerous police work in the United States, while our Park Police and University Police members protect and preserve New York's parks, historic sites and learning institutions. Each officer who sacrifices limb and life in the line of duty deserves the full benefit allotted to them, without delay or indignity. We are proud to partner with Senators Gillibrand and Cruz to ensure the distribution of these benefits is improved for all law enforcement officers.”*

*“Supporting the families of fallen officers is a commitment we make to every public safety professional who puts on the uniform,”* said **Chief of Police David Catholdi of the Town Of Brighton Police Department**

*“The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association appreciates the leadership of Senators Gillibrand and Cruz in introducing the ‘Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program Expansion Act of 2026,’ and their efforts on behalf of our nation’s law enforcement heroes,”* said **Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association National President Mathew Silverman**. *“This legislation delivers long-overdue reforms that will ensure fallen officers’ families and permanently disabled public safety professionals receive timely, fair, and predictable access to the benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice.”*