



Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, Inc.

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June 1, 2018

The Honorable Donald Bacon
1516 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bacon:

On behalf of the Society of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I am writing to inform you that our organization would like to offer its formal endorsement of the LEOSA REFORM ACT. Our Society has been in existence since 1937 and is the oldest and largest membership organization for former federal law enforcement officers. We have approximately 8,500 members and 120 active Chapters throughout the United States. Our members are keenly interested in continuing to help keep America safe and we believe this legislation will assist greatly in that endeavor. We are prepared to work diligently towards the successful passage of this legislation.

As you are very much aware, the bipartisan Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) was enacted into law in 2004. The federal law established guidelines allowing experienced retired or off-duty officers who maintain proper training to obtain certification allowing him or her to carry concealed firearms. Essentially, the Act's purpose was to create a shared national policy between states allowing officers to carry their firearms wherever they are, granted they are qualified and have received appropriate credentials. Since then, two separate amendments have provided meaningful progress, but there are still needed reforms that the legislation you are planning to introduce will seek to resolve.

This legislation provides six concrete reforms for the LEOSA: (1) Allowing those carrying pursuant to LEOSA to carry on a Gun Free School Zone (GFSZ); (2) allowing them to carry on Amtrak; (3) carrying in a national park; (4) allowing retired officers to carry any magazine which is not prohibited by federal law; (5) reforming qualification standards to alleviate undue burdens for those carrying pursuant to LEOSA; and, (6) allowing carry on private and state property otherwise open to the public.

Those carrying in accordance to LEOSA are men and women who have faithfully served and protected our communities. A primary benefit of LEOSA is providing “additional safety for the communities where the officers and retired officers live and visit.” The enactment of this proposed legislation will better allow our members and other law enforcement officers to respond to active shooter situations in schools, on Amtrak, in national parks, and in other public

and private locations. The before mentioned reforms will safeguard the rights of our retired and off-duty officers and ensure that they are best equipped to protect us all.

We thank you greatly for your leadership in this critical area. If you need anything from our Society, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E" and "B".

Ed Burke
National President