



FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
 7945 MacArthur Blvd. ▪ Suite 201 ▪ Cabin John, MD 20818
 Phone: 202-870-5503 ▪ www.fleoa.org

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May 30, 2018

The Honorable Don Bacon
 1516 Longworth HOB
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bacon,

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation’s largest professional, non-profit association representing 27,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies and in support of a proposal from the Society of Former Agents of the FBI, we are writing to you in support of proposals to fix gaps within the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA).

Since inception, several issues with LEOSA have plagued its application. Vagaries with LEOSA language compounded by some overzealous states that have filled in the LEOSA gaps has turned what should have been the clear intent of Congress, to allow certified law enforcement officers the ability to carry concealed throughout the United States, into a patchwork of rules and regulations throughout the nation

FLEOA has long advocated for changes to LEOSA and in conjunction with the Society of Former Agents of the FBI agrees that the following areas are in need of enhancement.

1. The Federal Gun Free School Zone Act (GFSZA) Conflict. Current law does not exempt LEOSA personnel from carrying in so called gun free school zones. In light of the horrible history of school shooters, it would seem prudent to allow law enforcement officers to be armed in and around schools.

2. The Common Carrier Conflicts: LEOSA certified law enforcement officers don’t have specific authorization to be armed on “common carriers.” In light of the targeting of "common carriers" by terrorists and DHS preparedness mandate for emergency response personnel, it would seem an armed law enforcement officer aboard “common carriers” makes sense.

3. The National Park Issue: Federal regulations prohibit weapon carry in a national park with no caveat for LEOSA certified officers. Since LEOSA is a federal law, it should apply on federal property.



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5. Qualification Issue: Different states have different regulations on how retired law enforcement will qualify. This is again and area that states have filled in a LEOSA gap. The standards should be the same across the country and simplified.

6. Private and State Property Otherwise Open to the Public: LEOSA allows private persons to ban weapon carry on their property and allows states to ban weapon carry on state property. If the purpose of LEOSA was to permit qualified law enforcement offices concealed carry waivers, having "patches" of application and non-application only diminishes the scope of LEOSA.

Congress enacted LEOSA in 2004 in order to simplify the concealed carry rules for law enforcement officers across the United States. By doing so, it increased readiness, responsiveness and operational effectiveness of public safety across our nation. Unfortunately the intent of Congress has been diminished by vagaries with the law and that must be corrected.

FLEOA appreciates your time and effort regarding this legislation. We look forward to working with you to help fix LEOSA and ensure the safety of our nation remains a top priority. Should you have any questions or need any additional information feel free to contact me directly at Dominick.stokes@fleoa.org.

Respectfully,

Dominick L. Stokes

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FLEOA Vice President for Legislative Affairs