

Representing Members Of:

AGRICULTURE
OIG
Forest Service
COMMERCE
Export Enforcement
OIG
NOAA Fisheries Law Enforcement
DEFENSE
Air Force – OSI
Army – CID
Defense Criminal Investigative Service
Naval Criminal Investigative Service
OIG
EDUCATION – OIG
ENERGY
National Nuclear Security Administration
OIG
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
CID
OIG
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION – OIG
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION – OIG
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OIG
Food and Drug Administration
HOMELAND SECURITY
Border Patrol
Coast Guard Investigative Service
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Customs and Border Protection
Federal Air Marshal Service
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Protective Service
U.S. Secret Service
Transportation Security Administration
OIG
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – OIG
INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
OIG
U.S. Park Police
JUSTICE
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Drug Enforcement Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Marshals Service
OIG
U.S. Attorney's Office – CI
LABOR – OIG
POSTAL SERVICE
Postal Inspection Service
OIG
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION – OIG
STATE DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Diplomatic Security
OIG
TRANSPORTATION – OIG
TREASURY
FinCEN
OIG
Internal Revenue Service – CI
TIGTA
U.S. CAPITOL POLICE
U.S. PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES
VETERANS AFFAIRS
OIG
VA Police
RETIREES
NATIONAL OFFICERS
President
NATHAN CATURA
Executive Vice President
LARRY COSME
Vice President – Operations
TIM CHARD
Vice President – Agency Affairs
FRANCIS NEELEY
Vice President – Membership Benefits
WILLIAM HAMPSTEAD
Vice President – Legislative Affairs
DOMINICK STOKES
Executive Director
PATRICK O'CARROLL
Immediate Past President
JON ADLER
Secretary
ENID FEBUS
Treasurer
MADELINE GORRA
Director of Administration
WILLIAM BELLER
National Chapters Director
MARK HEINBACH
National Awards Director
CHRISTINA TWEED
National Recruitment Director
RASHEED TAHIR
Retirement Director
STAN SCHWARTZ
Public Affairs Officers
JASON BRIEFEL
NATALIA CASTRO

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

1100 Connecticut Avenue NW ▪ Suite 900 ▪ Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-293-1550 ▪ www.fleoa.org



January 28, 2019

Congressman Don Bacon
U.S. House of Representatives
1024 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bacon,

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation's largest not for profit, non-partisan professional association representing more than 27,000 federal law enforcement agents and officers from 65 agencies – I write in support the Society of Former Agents of the FBI's (SOCXFBI) proposal to fix gaps within the *Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act* (LEOSA).

Since its inception, several issues with LEOSA have plagued its application. The overzealous actions of some states that have sought to “fill in the gaps” on LEOSA, when combined with the vagaries of the legislation itself, 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 SOCXFBI, 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 tragic history of school shootings, 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 historic targeting of common carriers by terrorists, as well as DHS' preparedness mandate for emergency response personnel, allowing armed law enforcement officers aboard “common carriers” seems like common 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.

4. **The Magazine Capacity Issue:** Some states have instituted magazine capacity limits without proper caveats for law enforcement officers. This presents issues for officers crossing state lines and retiring with their duty weapon. It also contravenes the intent of LEOSA.

5. **Qualification Issue:** Different states have different regulations on how retired law enforcement will qualify. This is again an area in which states have sought to fill a gap left by LEOSA. The standards should be simple and consistent across the country.

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 officers 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 officers across our nation. Unfortunately, the intent of Congress has been diminished by vagaries within the law 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 to 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@fleo.org.

Respectfully,

Dominick L. Stokes

Dominick L. Stokes
Vice President for Legislative Affairs
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)