



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

PENNSYLVANIA STATE LODGE

PRESIDENT
LES NERI
Chester County Lodge #11
lneri@pafop.com

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
P.O. Box 898
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Office: (717) 236-6981
Website: www.pafop.org

RECORDING SECRETARY
JOSEPH A. REGAN
Lower Merion Lodge #28
Montgomery
jregan@pafop.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
MARK KOCH
Power City Lodge #18, Hazleton

VICE PRESIDENT
ROOSEVELT L. POPLAR
Michael G. Lutz Lodge #5
Philadelphia
rpoplar@pafop.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN A. FIORILL
Red Rose Lodge #16, Lancaster
jfiorill@pafop.com

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
JOSEPH A. FITZGERALD
Delaware County Lodge #27
jfitzgerald@pafop.com

TREASURER
JOSEPH M. BROWN
Berks County Lodge #71
jbrown@pafop.com

SGT. AT ARMS
KEN KENSILL
Erie City Lodge #7
kkensill@pafop.com

TRUSTEES
Chairman
VINCENT J. DICENZO JR.
Allegheny County Lodge #91
vldicenzo@pafop.com

JASON BRINKER
Capital City Lodge #12, Harrisburg
jbrinker@pafop.com

WILLIAM BUTTENBUSCH
Montgomery County Lodge #14
wbutzenbusch@pafop.com

GENE HATCHER
Le-Hampton Lodge #35
Lehigh and Northampton
ghatcher@pafop.com

COLETTE M. SMITH
Trooper Philip C. Melley
Memorial Lodge #65
PSP- Berks/Lebanon/Schuylkill
csmith@pafop.com

KIM SWEENEY
Fort Pitt Lodge #1, Pittsburgh
ksweeney@pafop.com

CHAPLAIN
RON ZONA
Frank J. Kelly Lodge #62
PSP- Cambria/Indiana
Somerset/Westmoreland

PARLIAMENTARIAN
PAUL McCOMMONS
Frank J. Kelly Lodge #62
PSP- Cambria/Indiana
Somerset/Westmoreland

September 21, 2020

RE: SB 1085 PN 1586 – Evading Arrest or Detention by Foot

Dear Senator:

On behalf of approximately 40,000 active and retired Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Officers, the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge, asks for your support for SB 1085. This legislation was introduced in response to the tragic death of Officer John Wilding of the Scranton Police Department. In July of 2015, Officer Wilding fell to his death while chasing three teenagers suspected of armed robbery. In this case, prosecutors found existing statutes that, while currently prohibit fleeing from an officer in a vehicle or struggling with an officer attempting to place an individual under arrest, they are silent with respect to fleeing an officer on foot.

SB 1085 will create a new offense of “Evading Arrest of Detention by Foot”. This legislation is modeled after a similar statute in the state of Texas. When individuals flee from law enforcement officers attempting to place them under arrest, they create a risk of harm, not just to the officer, but also to innocent bystanders and themselves. SB 1085 attempts to address this concern.

Officer Wilding was a respected member of his community, as well as a rising star in the Scranton police force. His life was cut tragically short and highlights the need for additional protections needed by our brave law enforcement officers pursuing suspects on foot. We need to ensure that the dangers posed by individuals fleeing on foot are addressed by state law, not only for our officers, safety, but also the safety of innocent bystanders.

SB 1085 PN 1586 is fully supported by the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge. Thank you for your continued support of Pennsylvania’s Law Enforcement Officers.

Sincerely,

Joseph Regan, Chairman
Legislative Committee
Fraternal Order of Police
Pennsylvania State Lodge

