



Florida Police Chiefs Association

Serving Florida's Law Enforcement Since 1952

September 28, 2021

The Honorable Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar (FL-27)
1616 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Proposed Legislation Relating to Veterans Response Teams

Dear Congresswoman Salazar:

I am writing today to express the Florida Police Chiefs Association's (FPCA) support of your proposed legislation relating to authorizing the Attorney General to make grants for the creation and operation of veteran response teams within law enforcement agencies.

We believe that providing training and education for law enforcement officers on mental health issues related to military service, such as post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression and anxiety can only help us to assist those heroes in their time of need. Further, we believe that anything we can do to prevent those that have served our country from entering the criminal justice system or from committing suicide by connecting them with resources they may not be aware of is the least we can do to help ensure they live happy and productive lives.

Lastly, the FPCA Board of Directors, Legislative Committee Members and Members appreciate your efforts to improve the lives of our veterans. We stand ready and willing to assist you and your staff as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

Jennifer "Cookie" Pritt
Executive Director

Cc: Chief Stephan Dembinsky, FPCA President
Chief Daniel Slaughter, FPCA Legislative Committee Chair