



***FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE***  
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April 8, 2024

To the Esteemed Members of the Nevada Interim Finance Committee,

I pen this letter with utmost urgency and sincerity on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police Nevada C.O. Lodge 21, where I humbly serve as the Secretary. Our organization stands as a bastion of support for nearly 1000 dedicated member peace officers across the state of Nevada, representing a bargaining unit of close to 1600 law enforcement heroes. Having recently retired from a distinguished career as a correction officer spanning back to 2003, I write to you today to lend our unwavering support to the Peer Support Program, slated for consideration (NDOC SCAAP re-allocation under Section 7) of the upcoming April 11th, 2024, meeting agenda. I implore that my correspondence be enshrined within the official record for your esteemed deliberations.

Throughout my tenure in law enforcement, I have borne witness to the myriad challenges and harrowing realities faced by our brave officers on a daily basis. These men and women confront traumatic incidents, heart-rending crises, and an unrelenting torrent of stressors that would stagger the most resolute of souls. Regrettably, not all possess the resilience to navigate these pressures alone. Indeed, the sobering statistics regarding law enforcement suicides nationwide underscore the dire need for proactive measures to safeguard the mental well-being of our officers.

While the existing Employee Assistance Program (EAP) serves as a commendable resource, its efficacy is tempered by the inherent limitations of scheduling and availability. In contrast, the Peer Support Program, with your invaluable support, promises a beacon of hope available 24/7 to our officers in need. This vital initiative will provide a lifeline for timely intervention and empathetic guidance from peers who have traversed similar trials and tribulations. By bridging the chasm between professional counseling and immediate, relatable support, this program holds immense potential to

alleviate the burdens and dispel the shadows of despair that afflict our law enforcement community.

In the name of solidarity with our FOP members and the entire fraternity of officers across Nevada, I beseech your partnership and fervently urge the allocation of resources to fortify this crucial pillar of officer wellness. Your decisive action in approving funding for the Peer Support Program represents not only an investment in the resilience of our law enforcement family but a testament to the unwavering commitment of our state to the guardians of public safety.

With profound gratitude for your unwavering dedication to the welfare of our officers, I extend my heartfelt thanks in anticipation of your assistance in championing this indispensable initiative.

Respectfully,

Dshamba Prater

Secretary

FOP

Nevada C.O. Lodge 21

