



Brothers and sisters in the FOP,

Legislation was recently introduced in the Illinois General Assembly, House Bill 3458, that would have allowed mental illness to be a legally justifiable defense by a person charged with the aggravated battery of a police officer. Needless to say we were opposed to this bill. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of many of our members as well as our State Lodge Lobbyist working in conjunction with Chicago Lodge 7 Lobbyist, sponsor Rep. Lisa Davis realized the bill was detrimental to law enforcement and has assured us it will not move any further in the legislature.

What started out as a bad bill for law enforcement has opened the eyes of a new legislator who now better understands the challenges that police officers face every day. We look forward to having additional open dialogue with Rep. Davis on future issues concerning emergency responders.

As this recent experience with Rep. Davis demonstrates, someone who might not have been in our corner at first can be convinced to do the right thing, but only if we keep cool heads and do not resort to the unscrupulous tactics that some anti-police groups use. Many of our members feel very strongly about certain pieces of legislation and do not hesitate to let people know when we oppose a bill. That's what makes us effective, but let's not lose that effectiveness by alienating potential allies.

Thank you as always for supporting the men and women who wear the badge.

Fraternally,

Chris Southwood  
State Lodge President  
Illinois Fraternal Order of Police