

# PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICERS' BENEFITS PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

The PSOB Office administers the processing of vital death and disability benefits to the families of public safety officers who are killed or suffer catastrophic injuries in the line of duty.

## Background

The PSOB Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, provides death benefits to the families of fire and emergency services personnel who lose their lives in the line of duty. This support helps ease the financial burden during a devastating time and ensures families have some stability moving forward.

While the program's benefits are intended to be delivered swiftly, many claimants have experienced significant delays that compound the financial and emotional hardship they face after tragedy.

The frequency of these delays is caused by the reduced number of analysts who process PSOB applications. Additional personnel and resources are essential to improve service to survivors, reduce backlogs, and ensure that eligible claimants receive benefits without unnecessary delay.

## Ask

- ▶ Prioritize and accelerate the addition of new PSOB claims analysts to process applications and make payments more quickly.

## Talking Points

### ▶ Coverage of Career and Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Personnel

The PSOB applies to both career and volunteer fire and emergency services personnel, recognizing that all who serve face similar risks.

### ▶ Education Benefits for Survivors

In addition to financial assistance, the PSOB connects eligible spouses and children to education benefits to support long-term recovery and opportunity after loss.

### ▶ Versatility of Eligibility

The program has adapted to cover deaths and disabilities related to extraordinary events, such as pandemics or large-scale disasters to ensure fire and emergency services personnel are protected even when facing emerging or non-traditional hazards.

