



Congressman Pedro R. Pierluisi
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery
Bipartisan National Police Week Press Conference
House Triangle
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Thank you.

I am proud to join my colleagues—especially Congressmen Grimm, Pascrell, and Reichert—in recognizing National Police Week.

First and foremost, I want to thank the members of the law enforcement community who are here with us today—and to extend my gratitude to all the police officers in the 50 states, DC, and the five U.S. territories, including my home of Puerto Rico, who wake up and go to work every day with a single overriding mission—to protect the people of this country, to safeguard our neighborhoods and communities, and to bring those who violate our criminal laws to justice.

Before I came to Congress, I served as Puerto Rico’s Attorney General, and had the opportunity to work closely with the men and women of law enforcement. They are some of the best, bravest, and most determined people I know. I quickly learned that they value actions over words. And the reason is simple. In the law enforcement world, like the military world, because the stakes are so high, talk is cheap. So police officers tend to be unimpressed by rhetoric. They expect their elected leaders to produce results—or at least to work tirelessly towards that end.

On the House floor yesterday, I made this point in a different way. I said that every day, police officers put themselves in harm's way to protect us. They have our backs—and it is important that we have theirs.

And that is precisely what the Members of Congress here today, joined by so many of our colleagues, have tried to do: to watch your backs, just like you've always been there to watch ours.

Last week, we offered an amendment to the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Act that increased funding for the COPS hiring program by \$126 million dollars. The amendment passed one vote, but it still passed. The COPS program has proven to be highly effective—and we will continue to fight to ensure that it is adequately funded.

And, yesterday, the House overwhelmingly approved the *National Blue Alert Act*, sponsored by Congressman Grimm and myself. This legislation will help deter violent acts against police officers and, in the event such violent acts occur, ensure that the perpetrators are quickly apprehended.

In closing, I want to again thank our nation's law enforcement officers for their service and their sacrifice. Please be assured that you can continue to count on me and my colleagues here today to stand with you and to make sure you have the tools you need to complete your critical mission. Thank you.