



**INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS
AFL-CIO**

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President
HUGH CAMERON
International Secretary-Treasurer



February 13, 2017

The Honorable Peter J. Abbate, Jr.
Assemblyman
New York State Assembly
LOB 839
Albany, New York 12248

The Honorable Fred Akshar
Senator
New York State Senate
LOB 805
Albany, New York 12247

Re: Bills A02962A and S1114A **“Blue Lives Matter”**

Dear Assemblyman Abbate and Senator Akshar:

As the President of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO (I.U.P.A), I am proud to announce our support and endorsement of your thoughtful bills, A02962A and S1114A, **“Blue Lives Matter”**. This bi-partisan legislation would classify assaults on first responders as hate crimes and upgrade those offenses to the next higher level of severity.

When men and women are assaulted simply because of the uniforms they wear while attempting to provide for the public’s safety, the entire fabric of our free society is also attacked. We have ample and tragic examples of such attacks from the great state of New York; Dallas, Texas; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, all fresh in our minds and heavy on our hearts. Your needed bill both recognizes this and seeks to prevent such attacks.

We look forward to working with all of our police and corrections officer locals in the State of New York, the NYS AFL-CIO, the NYS Senate and Assembly, as well as your staffs to see this critical legislation move forward and become law.

Very Respectfully,

Sam A. Cabral
International President

cc: John J. Flanigan, NYS Senate Majority Leader (via e-mail only)
Carl E. Heastie, NYS Speaker of the Assembly (via e-mail only)
Christopher Quick, President, Local 4- NYS Police Investigator’s Association and
I.U.P.A. Region 11 Vice President (via e-mail only)

Anthony V. Solfaro, President, Local 8- NYS Union of Police Associations, Inc. and
I.U.P.A. At-Large Legislative Member of the Executive Board (via e-mail only)
Keith Olson, President, Local 16, Yonkers Police Benevolent Association
(via e-mail only)
Christopher Sapienza, President, Local 15, Yonkers Police Department Captains,
Lieutenants and Sergeants Association (via e-mail only)
Rafael Marquez, President, Local 1990, Orange County COBA (via e-mail only)
Michael Neidl, NYS AFL-CIO, Legislative Director (via e-mail only)