Expressing support for the law enforcement officers of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Vance submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the law enforcement officers of the United States.

Whereas more than 800,000 law enforcement officers in the United States risk their lives daily to serve and protect their communities;

Whereas there are more than 23,000 fallen law enforcement officers honored on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, dating back to 1786, when the first law enforcement officer in the United States died in the line of duty;

Whereas, during the 2 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 800 law enforcement officers died in the United States in the line of duty, the highest number of such deaths over a 2-year period in the history of the United States;
Whereas some politicians and interest groups have responded to the risks faced by law enforcement officers with calls to “defund” or even “abolish” law enforcement agencies across the United States;

Whereas defunding law enforcement agencies or otherwise demoralizing law enforcement officers will make it more difficult for officers to intervene in dangerous situations and high-risk neighborhoods;

Whereas a law enforcement officer will typically encounter between 400 and 600 traumatic events during the career of the officer, compared with 3 or 4 traumatic events encountered by the average citizen;

Whereas the unusually high number of traumatic events experienced by law enforcement officers has contributed to a 54 percent higher suicide rate among officers than among individuals in other jobs;

Whereas the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice has confirmed that there is no statistically significant difference between the rates at which major racial and ethnic groups are stopped in police-initiated interactions;

Whereas the innovative and dedicated efforts of law enforcement officers have successfully brought down crime rates from historic highs;

Whereas the “defund and defame the police” movement that began in 2020 has—

(1) coincided with a dramatic rise in homicides and other violent crimes in cities and towns across the United States; and

(2) caused the retention and recruitment of sworn law enforcement officers to drop to a dangerously low
level, with current numbers showing fewer law enforce-
ment officers per resident than at any other time during
the 25-year period preceding the date of adoption of this
resolution;

Whereas, in 2020—

(1) 60,105 law enforcement officers were assaulted
by criminals, resulting in 18,633 injuries; and

(2) the number of arrests made by law enforcement
officers throughout the United States dropped to
7,630,000, a 24 percent reduction from 2019 and the
fewest number of such arrests in 25 years;

Whereas 72 percent of law enforcement officers surveyed are
less willing to stop and question suspicious individuals
than they were before 2020;

Whereas the rhetoric associated with the “defund and defame
the police” movement has created an increasingly dan-
gerous environment for law enforcement officers in which,
in 2022 alone, 331 officers were shot, 62 of whom were
shot fatally; and

Whereas supporting law enforcement officers with the equip-
ment, training, and funding needed to protect commu-
nities in the United States from criminal violence has
long received overwhelming public support from across
the political spectrum: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) highly respects and values the law enforce-
ment officers of the United States and greatly ap-
preciates all that those officers do to protect and
serve their communities;
(2) remembers and honors law enforcement officers who have experienced a death or injury in the line of duty and the families of those officers;

(3) calls for increased measures to be taken to maximize the safety and well-being of law enforcement officers, including improvements relating to the retention and recruitment of officers, improved training and equipment for officers, tougher penalties for assaulting or killing an officer, and increased mental health resources for officers;

(4) strongly condemns the misguided and disastrous movement to “defund and defame the police”;

and

(5) calls on all levels of government to ensure that law enforcement officers receive the support and resources needed to keep all communities in the United States safe.