

# SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

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Vincent J. Vallelong  
President

February 7, 2022

Edmund J. Small  
Vice President

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
U.S. Senate

Edward Geary  
Treasurer

Washington, DC 20510

Michael Peruggia  
Recording Secretary

Dear Senator Blackburn:

Anthony Borelli  
Financial Secretary

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association (SBA) of the New York City Police Department to advise you of our support for S. 3079, the “Keeping Our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act.”

Donald Kipp  
Health & Welfare  
Secretary

The SBA has urged all our members to learn the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine and to protect themselves during this public health emergency. The vast majority of SBA members are vaccinated. Still, the SBA also believes that the choice to receive or decline the COVID-19 vaccine is a personal choice that officers should be free to make after consulting with a qualified medical professional. Since the beginning of the pandemic, long before the introduction of vaccines, our members have reported for duty as the deadly public health crisis swirled around them. We did not and could not work from home or be “locked down,” and were among the “essential” frontline workers hailed as heroes for continuing to do our jobs during the darkest days of the pandemic. We willingly placed ourselves in harm’s way, continuing to do our jobs with minimal personal protective equipment. Nearly two years later, these same essential employees who were hailed as heroes are being villainized and told they will lose their jobs for failing to comply with vaccine mandates. This will only serve to exacerbate the ongoing public safety crisis and officer shortage facing New York City and other jurisdictions across the U.S.

Paul Capotosto  
City-Wide Secretary

It is for these reasons that the SBA is proud to support the “Keeping Our COVID-19 Heroes Employed Act.” This legislation provides an exemption for police and other essential workers from COVID-19 vaccine requirements imposed by state and local governments that received federal funding from any of the coronavirus response laws enacted since the start of the pandemic. This important legislation will keep law enforcement officers around the country on

the job ensuring the safety of communities during an alarming spike in violent crime across this nation.

On behalf of the membership of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, thank you again for your leadership on this important legislation. We look forward to working with you to see it enacted into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent Vallelong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Vincent Vallelong  
President