

# *State Troopers' Fraternal Association of New Jersey, Inc.*



The Honorable Robert Menendez  
United States Senator  
1 Gateway Center  
Suite 1100  
Newark, NJ 07102

**RE: SMART Act (S. 3752)**

May 27, 2020

Dear Senator Menendez,

The State Troopers Fraternal Association (STFA) is the exclusive bargaining unit for over 1600 rank and file New Jersey state troopers. The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has presented new and unprecedented challenges for our members and agency as a whole. Along with the clear and present dangers associated with being susceptible to the COVID-19 virus in the performance of their duty, the reciprocal effect the virus has had on our State's economy will be crippling for years to come.

The tremendous loss of tax revenues coupled with unforeseen costs brought onto government entities by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to have an extremely detrimental effect on public safety and law and order across our nation. Therefore, the STFA applauds your efforts in recognizing this potential crisis with the introduction of the SMART Act. We must avoid being in a position where our first responders may face layoffs. Beyond that, we need to ensure we can continue to recruit and hire qualified first responders now and into the future and assure funding is in place for those future positions. Finally, we must remember that since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 coupled with the unique response needed to combat the current pandemic, the role of the members of the STFA and all first responders has significantly increased. Funding is an essential part of ensuring our first responders can safely and effectively carry out our vast missions. Your response to this great need via the SMART Act is both essential and commendable.

We look forward to working with you on this important piece of public safety legislation and unequivocally support the SMART Act! Thank you for your continuous support of the men and women of the STFA and all first responders nationwide.

Sincerely,

Wayne Blanchard,  
President,  
State Troopers Fraternal Association