



March 27, 2025

I am submitting this written testimony to the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing in favor of House **Bill No. 5372** on behalf of the members of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers. This legislation allows the presumption of in the line of duty illness for heart disease and hypertension unless contrary evidence is presented.

According to a study conducted by the “National Institute of Health (NIH)

“Metabolic Syndrome and other cardiovascular risk factors among police officers. - A police force constitutes a special occupational group. They have been shown to be at high risk for the development of cardiovascular diseases. A multitude of factors may be responsible for this.

Police personnel play a pivotal role in any society by ensuring security and stability. They constitute a special occupational group with exposure to violence at work, which directly and indirectly affects their health. Currently employed police personnel have also been shown to have a high prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors, including metabolic syndrome (MS) [Table 1](#)], hypertension, and hyperlipidemia. In fact, a job as a law enforcement personnel has been proven to be a long-term predictor for adverse cardiovascular events.”

According to an article entitled *Heart Disease the No. 1 Killer of LEO's* in [Police 1](#) an online Law Enforcement Officers publication that is considered to be the world's most comprehensive and trusted online destination for law enforcement professionals, department decision makers and industry experts. The following is a brief excerpt of the article

“Many consider law enforcement to be one of the most dangerous professions in the world, but being killed on the job isn't what ends up taking lives too soon – it's heart disease.” “Police officers are 25 times more likely to die of a heart attack than to be killed by the violent action of a suspect,” said Noel March, chief strategy officer at [Sigma Tactical Wellness](#). (Sigma Tactical Wellness has pioneered a novel system of cardiometabolic screening which incorporates advanced cardiovascular biomarker detection, vascular imaging, and cardiopulmonary exercise testing to identify coronary disease well before a cardiac event occurs.)

“Working from a foundation of extensive research, Sheinberg and Stone, along with additional members of the [Sigma](#) team, began traveling the country testing law enforcement officers for heart disease.”

"So far, we've screened about 6,500 cops in multiple states," said Sheinberg. "What we found is the incidence of what we call pre-clinical, before any symptoms are present, heart disease was present in over 50% of the officers we tested. Early blockages were detected in otherwise fit-appearing men and women as early as age 30."

"Identifying and treating blockages before they develop further is critical in maintaining officer wellness. Published data shows that, between the ages of 55 and 60, the chance of a civilian dying from a heart attack is 1.9%, says Sheinberg. In the law enforcement community, it's 56%.

The numbers, unfortunately, don't paint the full picture when it comes to heart disease and cops. Sheinberg says that heart attacks aren't often considered line of duty deaths unless the death occurs during a shift."

And finally, according to Sigma Wellness Police Officer life expectancy is almost 22 years less than the lives of the civilians they protect.

More than 35 US states have passed laws entitling firefighters with heart disease to receive publicly funded death and/or disability awards, and at least 18 US States have passed similar legislation for cardiovascular disease in police officers.

I urge the members of the committee and the House of Representatives to pass **House Bill No. 5372**

Respectfully Submitted



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National Representative  
NAGE/IBPO