



# I.U.P.A. LOCAL 6020

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS  
BROWARD DEPUTY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION  
*THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS*

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January 16, 2023

Representative Vicki Lopez, Florida House of Representative for District 113

Suite 702

2100 Coral Way

Coral Gables, FL 33145

The International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.) Local 6020, the union representing the Department of Law Enforcement Deputies and Sergeants for the Broward County Sheriff's Office, currently represents approximately 1200 members. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 endorses your legislative efforts under House Bill 169 to add to Florida state statute 112.1815, requiring employing agencies of first responders to pay for licensed mental health counselling for first responders who request it. House Bill 169 seeks to prevent employing agencies of first responders from requiring the use of the first responder's own leave accruals to attend mental health counseling sessions.

First responders throughout the course of their careers respond to and see some of the most horrific moments society unfortunately endures. The nature of what first responders encounter during their careers is devastating and can be mentally and emotionally exhausting. With it being well documented that first responders have higher suicide rates than the general public, it is imperative that they have the resources and support necessary for their own wellbeing. While there are existing resources available for first responders, House Bill 169 seeks to expand and build upon those resources which will benefit first responders all across the great state of Florida.

The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 looks forward to working with you on this matter and extends all available resources at its disposal to assist with passage of House Bill 169.



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Respectfully submitted,

*Matt Cowart*

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President, I.U.P.A. Local 6020