



NEW YORK STATE  
PROBATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, New York 12224

**RE: Assembly Bill # 9667 / Senate Bill # 7554**

*Provides Optional Disability Coverage for County Probation Officers*

**Letter of Support**

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The New York State Probation Officer's Association encourages Your Honor to sign Assembly Bill # 9667 / Senate Bill # 7554 into law.

Probation Officers are Peace Officers, as stipulated by the New York State Criminal Procedure Law. They provide a vital law enforcement element to the community's safety and their duties involve them in all phases of the criminal justice process. In many Counties, Probation Officers are armed. Duties may include both conducting warrantless searches and serving active warrants. The supervision rule NYCRR Part 351 requires Probation Officers to make positive home contacts with their high and greatest risk probationers on a regular basis. Probation Officers are exposed daily to risks and dangers working with a group of probationers who demonstrate more violence than ever before. Furthermore, the risks are not necessarily from probationers; the neighborhoods Probation Officers must frequent are often crime ridden in which non-probationers are potentially carrying illegal firearms. They frequently perform their special duties side-by-side with other law enforcement officers, such as local Sheriff's Departments and other Police Agencies, as well as specialized law enforcement, such as anti-gang programs.

It is only fair and equitable that Probation Officers should be afforded the same disability as their peers in the law enforcement community, which would provide disability coverage equal to their full salary if they are injured in the performance of their duties.

Currently, Probation Officers in Nassau County are afforded this coverage. By signing this into law, all Probation Officers in New York State would be granted the statutory authorization to "negotiate through the chosen representatives of the employer and employees."

Passage of this legislation would not have any fiscal impact on New York State. Furthermore, it would not impose this benefit "unilaterally through legislation," but rather grant each County individually, statutory authority to extend this benefit to their Probation Officers.

Again, the New York State Probation Officer's Association encourages Your Honor to sign Assembly Bill # 9667 / Senate Bill # 7554 into law.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Larry S. Evans  
Legislative Chair