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September 1, 2015

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to request that you declare a National Day of Prayer to end targeted violence against law enforcement officers, and schedule appropriate public events in support of such a day. Given recent events, I ask that such a day be announced as soon as practicable.

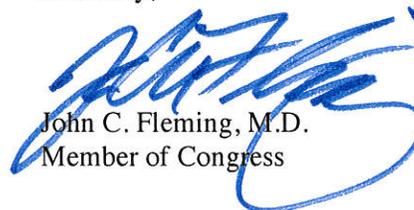
On August 28, 2015, Deputy Sheriff Darren H. Goforth was targeted and assassinated simply for wearing the uniform of a police officer. This tragedy echoes the brutal murders of Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu in New York City and gunfire towards police officers during protests in Ferguson on March 12 and August 9, 2015. This pattern must not continue.

All lives have dignity and worth, and your leadership on this issue would go a long way to ensure respect for those who sacrifice their safety and comfort to protect and serve us all. I fear that disturbed individuals are twisting the peaceful motives of many into a violent movement that threatens the men and women who perform the already dangerous job of law enforcement. While I condemn any misuse of the authority granted to armed law enforcement and seek swift justice in the case of abuses, there are no legitimate reasons for a private citizen to take the life of any police officer.

The circumstances have escalated beyond responding on a case-by-case basis. The perpetrators of these crimes against law enforcement must know that they will not be welcomed as heroes or understood as acting on legitimate grievances. Absent your leadership, I am concerned that the violence will only continue as future attackers misconstrue societal silence for societal acceptance. You have gone to great lengths to defend victims of police action. I hope you will now extend the same level of effort in defense of innocent police officers.

I am ready to stand with you against this disturbing trend. I urge you to act swiftly to condemn these murders and declare a National Day of Prayer and Peace. Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



John C. Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress