



MARK BRNOVICH  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ARIZONA

May 18, 2020

Honorable Rusty Bowers  
Speaker of the House  
1700 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Speaker Bowers:

I write to encourage the enactment of an important protection for our first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, I ask you to consider legislation creating a temporary presumption in Arizona law to ensure responders who contract COVID-19 will be covered by workers' compensation.

Arizona's first responders place their lives on the line every day, and their sacrifice is only heightened during a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic. While clearly facing an increased risk of exposure, it could be nearly impossible for them to prove the disease was contracted in the line of duty. We should work together to remove unnecessary barriers and uncertainty for our first responders and their families if they are faced with a sudden COVID-19 illness or death.

Similar bipartisan federal legislation is being proposed regarding the Justice Department's Public Safety Officers Benefits Program and death benefits.<sup>1</sup> Please stand with me in support of this important safeguard for our heroes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Brnovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Brnovich  
Arizona Attorney General

---

<sup>1</sup> Safeguarding America's First Responders Act of 2020, S. 3607, 116th Cong. 2D Session (2020).