

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 459

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America’s public safety officers.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. BUDD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America’s public safety officers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Thin Blue Line Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. AGGRAVATING FACTORS FOR DEATH PENALTY.**

6 Section 3592(c) of title 18, United States Code, is  
7 amended by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

8 “(17) KILLING OR TARGETING OF LAW EN-  
9 FORCEMENT OFFICERS.—

1           “(A) The defendant killed or attempted to  
2 kill, in a circumstance described in subpara-  
3 graph (B), a person who is authorized by law—

4                   “(i) to engage in or supervise the pre-  
5 vention, detention, investigation, or pros-  
6 ecution of, or the incarceration of any per-  
7 son for, any criminal violation of law;

8                   “(ii) to apprehend, arrest, or pros-  
9 ecute an individual for any criminal viola-  
10 tion of law; or

11                   “(iii) to be a firefighter or other first  
12 responder.

13           “(B) A circumstance referred to in sub-  
14 paragraph (A) is that the person was killed or  
15 targeted—

16                   “(i) while he or she was engaged in  
17 the performance of his or her official du-  
18 ties;

19                   “(ii) because of the performance of his  
20 or her official duties; or

21                   “(iii) because of his or her status as  
22 a public official or employee.”.

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