



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

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Mayor

Will O'Neill

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July 31, 2020

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
California State Assembly, AD 74
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0074

**Re: AB 2068 (Petrie-Norris) Firefighter & Police Officer Memorial
Funds - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write in strong support of AB 2068, which extends a voluntary tax check-off program that allows Californians an opportunity to make a donation through their income tax form to the California Firefighters' Memorial Fund (CFMF) and the California Peace Officer Memorial Fund.

The California Firefighters' Memorial and the Peace Officers' Memorial in the California State Capitol Park serve as enduring tributes to the men and women who lost their lives while serving on California's front lines of public safety. The memorials bear the names of eight individuals who bravely served the Newport Beach community. The Newport Beach Police Department has lost three officers in the line of duty - Officer John Marshall, Officer Robert Henry and Sergeant Steven Van Horn - all of whom are honored and remembered on the Peace Officers' Memorial. The California Firefighters' Memorial bears the names of five members of the Newport Beach Fire Department - Larry Parish, George Pearce, Kevin Pryor, Alan Schmehl and Randy Sheerer. The State and cities like Newport Beach depend on firefighters and peace officers to ensure Californians' safety.

Without legislative action, the State's Firefighter and Peace Officer Memorial fund would become inoperative on January 1, 2021. To continue to offer a place of honor and remembrance for our State's fallen firefighters and peace officers, as well as protect these gathering places where surviving family members and their community are strengthened by the power of remembering each firefighter or peace officer's ultimate sacrifice, the income tax check-off sunset should be extended.

This bill would renew and extend the voluntary tax check-off until January 1, 2028. Doing so will ensure that those who gave the ultimate sacrifice will continue to be memorialized by the State they served so valiantly.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach is in strong support of AB 2068.

Sincerely,



Will O'Neill
Mayor

cc: Senator John Moorlach
Tony Cardenas, League of California Cities
League of California Cities