

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Agents Association

February 8, 2017

Dana Boente
Acting Attorney General
Robert F. Kennedy Building
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530-2001

Dear Acting Attorney General Boente:

I am the President of the FBI Agents Association (FBIAA), a voluntary professional association currently representing over 13,000 active duty and retired FBI Special Agents. I write today to express the FBIAA's support for exempting FBI positions from the January 23, 2017 "hiring freeze" order, due to the vital national security and public safety functions performed by FBI personnel.

Together with their colleagues in the FBI, Special Agents perform a wide range of functions—all of which are focused on ensuring public safety and protecting our country from domestic and international threats. For example, FBI professionals are at the tip of the spear in our nation's fight against terrorism, organized crime, cyber-attacks, and public corruption.

An exemption is needed for FBI employees in order to avoid repeating resource and staffing problems that we have seen in the recent past. As a result of the budget cuts required by sequestration in 2013, for several years the FBI confronted under-funded programs, unfilled positions, and Quantico went silent as multiple classes of new Agents were never trained or sent into the field. In the wake of sequestration, the FBIAA has been encouraged by the FBI's effort to add more than 3,000 new positions at the FBI. Given the gap in hiring in previous years, these hires are needed to make sure that the FBI can continue to effectively protect the public.

We hope that you will provide a clear statement to the many individuals waiting to become FBI employees. A new class of Special Agents will be starting at Quantico soon, and while those individuals have been told they can proceed, future classes of Special Agents, people who are preparing to leave their jobs and dedicate themselves to our country, need to know that the hiring freeze will not be a barrier to their service.

President Trump's order exempts the military and provides that agency and department heads should exempt "any positions that [they] deem[s] necessary to meet national security or public safety responsibilities."

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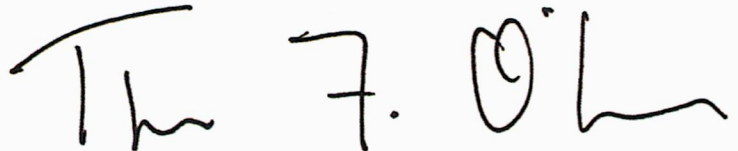
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The FBIAA believes that it is beyond question that FBI employees meet this standard and that they need to be exempt from the freeze in order to protect the public.

The FBIAA greatly appreciates your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

FBI Agents Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Th. O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "Th" and a distinct "O'Connor" part.

Thomas O'Connor
President