



## Probation Association of New Jersey

*Serving New Jersey Since 1904*

*An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association*

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Titessa D. Smith  
Business Manager

### Officials

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First VP, Line Staff

Gavin S. Cummings  
First VP, Supervisor's Unit

Susan Stott  
Second Vice President

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Northern Regional VP

Joel Narvaez  
Central Regional VP

Linval Lewis  
Southern Regional VP

Sabrina Beyah, Northern  
Reg. VP, Supervisor's Unit

Tracy Adamkiewicz, Central  
Reg. VP, Supervisor's Unit

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Reg. VP, Supervisor's Unit

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John Papp, AOC  
Nicholas Briscuso, Monmouth  
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#### Region 3

Nicole Dorr, Atlantic  
Ray Rose, Gloucester  
Titessa D. Smith, Gloucester

April 9, 2020

### **RE: Inclusion of Probation Officers in Federal COVID-19 Hazard Pay Bill**

Dear New Jersey Congressional Delegates,

On behalf of the Probation Association of New Jersey (PANJ), we thank you for your federal efforts in providing assistance and relief to those who have already suffered from COVID-19, and those who will suffer from the aftermath of this pandemic.

In anticipation of a fourth Coronavirus stimulus package being introduced, which would include hazard pay for first responders, we respectfully request that New Jersey Probation Officers, Supervisors and other represented titles be included in this measure, as well. As the number of COVID-19 cases increase in our state, especially within our prisons and court systems, our Probation Officers, Supervisors and other represented titles are constantly putting themselves in risk, as they are deemed an essential service during this pandemic.

PANJ members are conducting field visits and performing drug testing with no PPE. Probation Officers, Supervisors and other represented staff have continued to monitor their high risk probationers during this pandemic. They have been given minimal cleaning supplies to conduct those drug tests safely, and no other protective gear except disposable gloves. In addition to performing these essential functions to keep our communities safe, PANJ members are holding virtual hearings for guardianship matters, adoptions and parental visitations. Domestic violence restraining orders are being issued and amended. Family Division PANJ members are prepping and presenting cases for domestic violence disputes and final restraining orders.

PANJ advocates, on behalf of its members; hard working men and women who have dedicated their lives to public service and have demanding jobs. Though our members are used to working in extreme or dangerous areas and situations, this pandemic is truly uncharted for our membership, and the current public health concerns are dire. PANJ's priority has always been, and will always be, the citizens of New Jersey, and we will continue to serve our communities, however being protected under hazardous pay legislation would provide comfort and ease in these unknown times.

On behalf of PANJ, we thank the NJ Congressional Delegation and Governor Murphy for your swift action and thoughtful responses as we as a state and country combat this crisis. Thank you for your consideration of these measures and for understanding the unique position and hardships that our members experience.

We look forward to working with you to continue providing the best care and safety we can provide for our Garden State residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dwight E. Covaleskie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dwight Covaleskie  
President, Probation Association of New Jersey