



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

December 9, 2003

**S. 459**  
**Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act of 2003**  
*As cleared by the Congress on November 25, 2003*

**SUMMARY**

Under current law, the families of public safety officers who have died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty are eligible for a one-time payment of \$267,494. The amount of this payment is adjusted each year for inflation. S. 459 would extend that benefit to families of public safety officers who have died as a result of a heart attack or stroke suffered while on duty or within 24 hours after participating in a training exercise or responding to an incident, if the officer engaged in stressful or strenuous physical activity during those times.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 459 would increase direct spending by \$10 million in fiscal year 2004 and \$140 million over the 2004-2013 period.

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated impact of S. 459 on direct spending is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars									
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING</b>										
Estimated Budget Authority	10	13	13	14	14	14	15	15	16	16
Estimated Outlays	10	13	13	14	14	14	15	15	16	16

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## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

Based on information from associations representing police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians, CBO expects around 50 incidents occur each year of public safety officers dying from heart attacks or strokes under the conditions specified in the act. Under the provisions of S. 459, each officer's family would be eligible for a one-time payment of \$267,494, adjusted annually for inflation. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would increase direct spending by about \$10 million during the remainder of fiscal year 2004 and by \$140 million over the 2004-2013 period.

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