

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director

June 18, 2014

Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file officers from across the United States, I am writing to you to express full support for the Equity in Law Enforcement Act of 2014 (S.2441).

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

We are grateful that you introduced this bill, which will extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government. These brave men and women put their lives on the line to protect our communities and they deserve the full benefits provided to public law enforcement officers, including line-of-duty death benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program and bulletproof vest partnership grants through the Department of Justice.

Moreover, this bill honors the memory of MIT Police Officer Sean Collier, who was murdered on the evening of April 18, 2013 by those responsible for the tragic bombings at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. This legislation will ensure that Officer Collier's family and future survivors are protected.

NAPO believes this bill is essential to the law enforcement community, and stands ready to support any efforts necessary to pass this important bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director