

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director

May 2, 2013

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

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 National Blue Alert Act of 2013 (H.R.180), also known as the "Blue Alert" system, which would disseminate information when law enforcement officers are injured or killed in the line of duty.

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.

Each day, thousands of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to serve and protect our nation from crime and potential homeland security attacks. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), on average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 57 hours. Moreover, preliminary data from the NLEOMF indicates a 12% increase in the number of officer fatalities from May 2012 to May 2013. The National Blue Alert Act of 2013 will help to create a nationwide alert system to quickly identify and apprehend suspects when a law enforcement officer is injured or killed in the line of duty.

Law enforcement officer assaults, injuries, and deaths have increased sharply in recent years. The "Blue Alert" system would disseminate information notifying law enforcement agencies, the media, and the public that a suspect is wanted in connection with an attack on a law enforcement officer to assist with the apprehension of the criminal. Dissemination of important, time-sensitive information will ensure that those who commit offenses against law enforcement officers are quickly brought to justice.

Additionally, immediate dissemination of information on criminals being sought in connection with the injury or death of a law enforcement officer will keep our communities safe. Fleeing suspects pose threats to the public, as they may harm innocent members of society. This legislation will enable law enforcement officers to quickly locate suspects and restore safety to the area.

The “National Blue Alert System” is an invaluable resource that protects our citizens by alerting them of dangerous criminals and assists law enforcement with bringing to justice criminals who harm America’s law enforcement officers. The creation and implementation of a “Blue Alert” system will give law enforcement agencies the necessary tools to expedite the apprehension of criminals who harm officers.

NAPO strongly believes the advancement of this legislation is essential to assist the law enforcement community with quickly apprehending suspects and bringing them to justice before they can do anymore harm. Creating a nationwide system that responds to criminal action against law enforcement officers will ensure the safety of the officers and the public they protect.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

cc: Thomas Nee, NAPO President
Mick McHale, NAPO Executive Vice President