



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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February 12, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Yoder
United States House of Representatives
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yoder:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our deep concerns regarding the Email Privacy Act (H.R. 699).

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 very concerned that the warrant requirements included in the E-mail Privacy Act would negatively impact public safety. This legislation does not account for immediate law enforcement concerns, when seconds matter. Warrants take much longer to secure as compared with the current practice of officers obtaining a court order. This is of particular concern in time-critical cases, such as active kidnapping or child abduction cases.

Moreover, warrants require an affidavit, which generally becomes public. These documents have the potential to expose law enforcement and informant identities and methods. This is especially concerning in light of the increased number of attacks on police officers across the United States.

The warrant requirement included in your legislation would present a huge obstacle to legitimate law enforcement needs. Additionally, NAPO does not feel that a "one size fits all" approach is appropriate for these matters, especially when there are effective law enforcement policies and procedures already in place at the state and local level.

We urge you to take our concerns into consideration. If you would like to discuss this bill further, 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 flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

CC: Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, Judiciary Committee, United States House of Representatives