



# The Washington Report

The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations  
*Representing America's Finest*

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March 31, 2014

## NAPO WASHINGTON REPORT

### **NAPO Meets with Congressman Poe's Staff to Discuss the Line of Duty Act**

On March 27, 2014, NAPO met with **Congressman Ted Poe's (R-TX)** Deputy Chief of Staff to discuss the McLelland-Hasse Line of Duty Act. (Congressman Poe is the sponsor of the Line of Duty Act). NAPO stressed our support of this legislation, which would create a new federal crime for the killing, attempted killing, or conspiring to kill a federally funded public safety officer. The bill would also create a new federal crime for interstate flight to avoid prosecution for killing, attempting to kill, or conspiring to kill a federally funded public safety officer. This is important for NAPO members because so many of our jurisdictions receive federal funding, and this legislation will help to bring federal resources to bear in the prosecution of those who attempt to murder or murder any of these officers. Additionally, the bill would expressly allow all judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials, subject to limited regulations, to carry firearms into all federal facilities, federal courts, and in jurisdictions where the carrying of such weapons is otherwise prohibited by law.

**NAPO will continue to work with Congressman Poe and the Senate bill's sponsor, Senator Cornyn (R-TX), to ensure this legislation is passed. We will keep our members updated on the status of this initiative.**

### **NAPO Meetings on Capitol Hill – Congressmen Veasey & Collins**

On March 27, 2014, NAPO met with senior staffers for **Congressman Marc Veasey (D-TX)** and **Congressman Chris Collins (R-NY)** to discuss the following issues:

**Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act (JMHCA):** NAPO explained that the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) created the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) to help states and counties design and implement collaborative efforts between criminal justice and mental health systems. The JMHCA reauthorizes the successful MIOTCRA and extends the JMHCP for five years. The JMHCP can help law enforcement agencies across the United States in their responsibilities in assisting those, and dealing with citizens with mental health issues.

**Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program Reauthorization Act:** NAPO explained the importance of the BVP Grant Program, which provides federal funds to state and local law enforcement departments to assist state and

local law enforcement efforts to purchase bullet resistant vests. NAPO continues to expend all available efforts to garner additional cosponsors for the House and Senate versions of this bill.

**Officer Sean Collier Campus Police Recognition Act:** NAPO provided background on the Officer Sean Collier Campus Police Recognition Act, which amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 by adding campus police officers to the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program. This bill defines a "campus police officer" as a police officer who is authorized to enforce the criminal laws and is employed by an institution of higher education.

**Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Improvement and Reauthorization Act:** NAPO stressed the importance of passing this legislation, which would reauthorize the COPS Program for five years and raise the current hiring cap from \$75,000 to \$125,000. The President's FY 2015 Budget includes \$247 million for the COPS Hiring Program. NAPO has been advocating for the COPS Hiring Program to be funded at a minimum of the amount requested by President Obama.

**The staffers were receptive to the above proposals, and we look forward to working with Congressmen Veasey and Collins on these legislative priorities.**

## **NAPO Meets with House and Senate Staffers to Discuss Smarter Sentencing Act**

Over the past week, NAPO has joined fellow stakeholders in meetings with staffers for the following members of Congress: **Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)**, **Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC)**, **Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)**, and **Senator John Walsh (D-MT)** to discuss the Smarter Sentencing Act of 2013. The legislation relaxes current mandatory minimum sentencing policies. NAPO is concerned that altering mandatory minimum sentencing policies will strip law enforcement officers of a vital tool that is used to keep citizens safe.

The changes prescribed in the Smarter Sentencing Act will negatively impact law enforcement and public safety. Mandatory minimums are correlated to the seriousness of the crime committed. Individuals are less likely to commit crimes when they know they are subject to increased sentences. The fact that the crime rate is at the lowest level seen in decades illustrates the fact that mandatory minimums are effective.

Furthermore, law enforcement officers routinely use mandatory minimums as leverage to encourage suspects to cooperate during investigations. This tool has led to taking armed and dangerous criminals off of the streets before they can do anymore harm.

Weakening mandatory minimum sentencing policies will put dangerous criminals back on the streets, inhibit the ability of law enforcement officers to complete their missions, and negatively impact public safety.

**NAPO will continue to voice our concerns about this legislation on Capitol Hill, and we will keep our members updated on the status of this bill.**

## **Contact Your Senators Today to Support Law Enforcement Grant Programs**

Please help NAPO with our efforts to support vital law enforcement grant programs by calling your Senators today to request they sign-on to “Dear Colleague” letters supporting the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program. The letters are attached to this report for your review.

Since their inception, the COPS Hiring and Byrne JAG programs have enabled law enforcement agencies to form vital partnerships among communities and law enforcement officers, combat criminal activities, and develop and implement problem-solving and crime prevention programs nationwide. These two programs work hand-in-hand to provide evidence-based and innovative programs vital for public safety. Despite long-standing support for these programs, including a similar letter to appropriators last year that garnered over 180 signatures, both programs have been the target of cuts. Your actions will help to ensure support for these vital programs.

The BVP Grant Program “Dear Colleague” letter requests a standalone funding level of \$30 million for the BVP Grant Program. According to the Government Accountability Office, bulletproof vests have saved the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers since 1987. The BVP Grant Program has helped to provide law enforcement officers in 13,000 jurisdictions purchase over one million lifesaving vests that their departments would not be able to afford otherwise.

In recent years, demand for bulletproof vests has been outpacing funding for the program. In 2013, the program was able to cover only a third of the cost of purchasing a new vest, rather than half of the cost, as the law provides. This was due to both an increase in applications from local jurisdictions and a decrease in overall funding for the BVP Grant Program. With state and local law enforcement already struggling under significant budget constraints, and the demand for vests continuing to increase, it is imperative that Congress continue to invest in this lifesaving program.

While the BVP Grant Program is authorized at \$50 million per year, the program receives, on average, only half of that amount, leaving thousands of police departments and agencies unable to help their officers purchase vests. NAPO continues to fight for the BVP Grant Program to be fully funded at its authorized level of \$50 million in order to safeguard the lives of America’s law enforcement officers by ensuring they are afforded the necessary protection. However, we have endorsed the attached “Dear Colleague” letter to ensure it is funded at a minimum of \$30 million.

**We need you to contact your members today to ensure these programs remain intact.** If you have any questions about the “Dear Colleague” letters or the grant programs, please contact Melissa Nee at: [mnee@napo.org](mailto:mnee@napo.org).

Date

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

We write to thank you for your strong and consistent support of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program, and for the funding in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. We write to ask that you maintain funding for the program in the fiscal year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

As thoughtful stewards of taxpayer money, we must continually assess where federal support is necessary and appropriate. It is clear to us that the strong foundation of federal, state, and local partnerships built from the Byrne JAG program remains as vital as ever.

One of the highest responsibilities of government is to protect its citizens and ensure public safety. We are concerned that regional, national and international gangs and drug trafficking organizations are increasingly driving the crime on our streets, embedding criminal activity deeper into our rural communities, and driving a dangerous new wave of heroin addiction across the country. Byrne JAG-funded programs facilitate cross-governmental intelligence and information sharing on terror and criminal threats, drug and human trafficking organizations and sexual predators. This collaboration is essential to address today's criminal networks that cross city, state and even international boundaries.

Nationwide, the overall crime rate is at its lowest level since the 1960s due in part to advances in policing, information technology, offender management, and cross-jurisdictional coordination support by the Byrne JAG program. Crime in some communities, however, is on the rise again, reminding us that we must never become complacent when it comes to the safety of our citizens. Federal support for Byrne JAG and state and local law enforcement is our first line of defense against criminals and the Byrne JAG program is vital in combating crimes of all types.

Through Byrne JAG, the Department of Justice (DOJ) plays a crucial role in spurring innovation and testing cost-effective, evidence-based approaches to fighting crime. With over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., cross-jurisdictional learning and coordination cannot happen effectively without federal support.

Furthermore, crime prevention and control can be truly successful only when the criminal justice system is in balance, with all of the parts functioning effectively. Byrne JAG's flexibility allows state and local governments to target their most pressing needs in law enforcement, prevention, pretrial services and treatment, courts, corrections, crime victims' services, prosecution and defense, and post-incarceration reentry services. Byrne JAG also leverages the massive investment that already occurs regularly in these programs at the state and local level.

We know of your steadfast commitment to the Byrne JAG program in years past, and we ask for your continued support in the fiscal year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

March 28, 2014

## PROTECT OUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in signing the attached letter to Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby encouraging the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science to fund the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program at \$30,000,000.

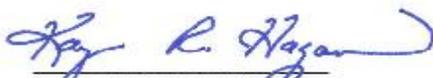
Congress has reauthorized the BVP Program four times since its inception in 1998, most recently by unanimous consent (P.L. 110-421) in 2008. That law authorized \$50,000,000 annually for this program, which protects the lives of local and State law enforcement officers who put themselves at risk every day to ensure the public's safety. Since becoming law in 1999, the BVP program has helped law enforcement officers in 13,000 jurisdictions purchase over one million new bulletproof vests.

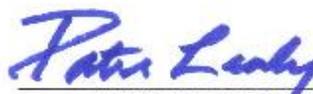
As law enforcement agencies continue struggling to find the funds necessary to purchase vests that stop bullets and save lives, it is our job in the Senate to honor the service of those who keep us safe by protecting their lives.

Our letter is supported by the Fraternal Order of Police, National Association of Police Organizations, National Sheriffs' Association, and the Major County Sheriffs' Association.

If you would like to join us in signing this letter or have any questions, please contact Kelsey Kobelt with Senator Leahy at 4-7703 or Margaret Lawryniewicz with Senator Hagan at 4-9902.

Sincerely,

  
KAY R. HAGAN

  
PATRICK LEAHY

April XX, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

Thank you for your leadership and past support of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program. As you begin work on the Subcommittee's appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2015, we respectfully request that you include a standalone funding level of \$30,000,000 for the Bulletproof Vest program.

According to the Government Accountability Office, bulletproof vests have saved the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers since 1987. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership has helped to provide law enforcement officers in 13,000 jurisdictions purchase over one million lifesaving vests that their departments would not be able to afford otherwise.

In recent years, demand for bulletproof vests has been outpacing funding for the program. In 2013, the program was able to cover only a third of the cost of purchasing a new vest, rather than half of the cost, as the law provides. This was due to both an increase in applications from local jurisdictions and a decrease in overall funding for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership. With state and local law enforcement already struggling under significant budget constraints, and the demand for vests continuing to increase, it is imperative that Congress continue to invest in this lifesaving program. Our support is critical to ensuring that both large and small jurisdictions can participate in a program that truly protects those who risk their lives for our safety everyday.

Bulletproof vests remain one of the primary forms of defense for our uniformed officers. As you weigh priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, we urge you to consider the proven lifesaving effectiveness of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

# 2014 Legislative Update and Capitol Hill Lobbying

May 13, 2014

## Washington Marriott Marquis Hotel

Please join NAPO on May 13 for our Legislative Day on Capitol Hill. Use this opportunity to lobby Congressional Representatives and Senators on behalf of your members concerning the issues which affect law enforcement. Prior to lobbying Capitol Hill, plan to attend NAPO's Legislative Breakfast for an update on NAPO's legislative priorities, results to date from the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, and to receive handouts to use during Hill visits. While on Capitol Hill, be sure to stop by NAPO's Congressional Luncheon in the Senate Caucus Room, where several Congressmen and Senators will be recognized for their continued support of Law Enforcement.

### Schedule of Events

NAPO Legislative Update Breakfast	Marriott Marquis Hotel	9:00a.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Capitol Hill Visits	Capitol Hill	10:30 a.m. –12:00 p.m.
NAPO Congressional Awards Luncheon	Cannon Caucus Room Cannon House Office Building	12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Capitol Hill Visits	Capitol Hill	1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**For assistance setting up your Capitol Hill appointments, please contact Melissa Nee, NAPO's Legislative Assistant, at (703) 549-0774 or [mnee@napo.org](mailto:mnee@napo.org).**

The registration fee of \$100.00 per person includes the Legislative Update Breakfast, Handouts, and Congressional Awards Luncheon. **Please contact Elizabeth Loranger, NAPO's Director of Events, at (800) 322-6278 or [eloranger@napo.org](mailto:eloranger@napo.org) if you have any questions regarding the seminar or hotel arrangements.**

NAPO has reserved a block of rooms at Marriott Marquis Hotel. Room rates are \$174 per night. To make your reservation, please call (800) 228-9290 and tell them you are with NAPO. In order to receive the reduced rate, reservations must be made by April 20. The hotel is expected to sell out, so please make your hotel reservations early.

**Please complete the registration form below and return to NAPO at [eloranger@napo.org](mailto:eloranger@napo.org) or fax to (703) 684-0515 by May 2.**

**Please monitor NAPO's website [www.napo.org](http://www.napo.org), and Facebook page: National Association of Police Organizations, and follow us on Twitter @NAPOpolice for breaking news and updates.**



**National Association of Police Organizations**

**Lobby Capitol Hill**

Marriott Marquis Hotel  
 Washington, D.C.  
 May 13, 2014

Please join NAPO on May 13th for our Legislative Day on Capitol Hill. Use this opportunity to lobby Congressional Representatives & Senators on behalf of your members concerning the issues which affect law enforcement. Prior to lobbying Capitol Hill, plan to attend NAPO's Legislative Breakfast for an update on NAPO's legislative priorities, results to date from the 113th Congress and to receive handouts to use during Hill visits. While on Capitol Hill, be sure to stop by NAPO's Congressional Luncheon in the Cannon Caucus Room where several Congressmen and Senators will be

recognized for their continued support of Law Enforcement. For assistance in setting up your appointments please contact Melissa Nee, NAPO's Legislative Assistant at mnee@napo.org.

Registration Fee of \$100.00 per person includes the Legislative Update Breakfast, Handouts & Congressional Awards Luncheon. Fax registration to Elizabeth Loranger at (703) 684-0515.

Registration/Payment Deadline is Friday, May 2nd

**Registration**

**Schedule of Events May 13**

Legislative Update Breakfast	Marriott Marquis Hotel	9:00 a.m.— 10:30 a.m.
Capitol Hill Visits	Capitol Hill	10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
NAPO Congressional Awards Luncheon	Cannon Caucus Room, Cannon House Office Building	12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
Capitol Hill Visits	Capitol Hill	2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide name and title for individuals as they should appear on name badge:

Attendee 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attendee 2: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be sending a check made payable to NAPO.  
 Please mail to 317 South Patrick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Please bill my credit card  
 If you wish to pay by credit card please complete the following and fax to 703-684-0515

**Card information:**

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Card type:  Visa  MC  Amex  Discover  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_