



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

317 South Patrick Street. ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501
(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 684-0515
www.napo.org ~ Email: info@napo.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

November 16, 2020

MICHAEL McHALE
President
Florida Police Benevolent
Association

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President
Patrolmen's Benevolent
Association of New York City

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

TODD HARRISON
Recording Secretary
Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN
Treasurer
Massachusetts Coalition
of Police

Dear Chairpersons Shelby and Lowey and Ranking Members Leahy and Granger:

MARC KOVAR
Sergeant-at-Arms
New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association

CRAIG D. LALLY
Executive Secretary
Los Angeles Police
Protective League

MARK YOUNG
Vice President,
Associate Members
Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to thank you for your consistent leadership in supporting federal assistance to state and local law enforcement and criminal justice programs, particularly the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program, the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program. As you come together to negotiate the final Fiscal Year 2021 spending bills, we respectfully request that you do not include any provisions that would hamper a state or local government or law enforcement agency from accessing these vital grant programs.

JAMES PALMER
Parliamentarian
Wisconsin Professional Police
Association

NAPO is a coalition of police units 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 and 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE
Executive Director and
General Counsel

Both the Senate and House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bills illustrate your support for Department of Justice state and local law enforcement assistance programs. You recognize that these programs provide invaluable resources, training, and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies, keeping our communities safe. However, we have serious concerns with provisions in H.R. 7617 that attempt to pursue the goals of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act by attaching strings to these programs, particularly the Byrne JAG Program.

The most concerning are the requirements that state and local law enforcement agencies must begin or have completed an accreditation process and must be certified by the Attorney General to have met certain standards laid out in the legislation in order to receive FY 21 state and local law enforcement assistance grants. With the Fiscal Year already underway, these provisions in H.R. 7617 have the potential to jeopardize public safety by withholding much needed grant funds from states and localities. The Byrne JAG Program alone provides resources for multi-jurisdictional drug and gang task forces, information sharing and technology, county jails, prosecutors, drug courts, and juvenile delinquency and drug treatment courts. Losing access to this funding will undermine law enforcement's mission to keep the public safe and hamper vital community criminal justice programs.

As Congress has yet to unify around police reform policies, we urge you to leave these controversial provisions out of the final Fiscal 2021 CJS appropriations bill. NAPO believes we can all come together around the principles of greater transparency, accountability, and training in law enforcement to improve policing practices, but until reform legislation is enacted into law, such policies should not be forced through as part of the appropriations process.

Again, we thank you for your work and leadership on these important issues and appreciate the strong funding you have given to state and local law enforcement and criminal justice grant programs. Please contact me at (703) 549-0775 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

William J. Johnson, Esq.
Executive Director