

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

**Executive Director**

October 20, 2014

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I write to you to express concerns regarding the Death in Custody Reporting Act (S. 2807), as NAPO strongly feels that this bill will negatively impact the availability of important resources for law enforcement to use to keep our communities safe.

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.

NAPO is concerned that the Death in Custody Reporting Act pursues its goals through penalties to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program - a critical resource for law enforcement.

Law enforcement departments across the nation continue to keep our communities safe with scarce resources. This legislation has the potential to jeopardize public safety through Byrne JAG penalties. The Byrne JAG Program 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 a percentage of this funding will undermine law enforcement's mission to keep the public safe.

We understand the desire for timely and accurate data. However, this effort should not be pursued at the expense of the law enforcement community, which is already operating on limited resources.

We hope you will consider our position when the Senate Judiciary Committee reviews this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', is written over a horizontal line.

William J. Johnson  
Executive Director