



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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January 26, 2017

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
U.S. House of Representatives
2353 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hastings:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our opposition to the Cory Jones Act (H.R. 158).

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, 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.

Across the country, law enforcement agencies use plainclothes officers and unmarked cars for a variety of reasons, from detective work to catching distracted drivers on our nation's highways. Most states and jurisdictions have laws that govern how agencies use unmarked cars and the officers that drive them are trained on the proper use of such vehicles. Further, agencies have policies plainclothes officers must follow when they interact with the public.

The Cory Jones Act is a federal overreach in its blanket prohibition of the use of plainclothes officers and unmarked cars for routine traffic stops for COPS grantees. Further, this bill shows a complete lack of support for law enforcement by automatically allowing civil suits to be brought by individuals who are injured during a routine traffic stop by a plainclothes officer. The bill makes the assumption that the officer making the stop was in the wrong, when there are numerous public safety issues that could have led to the traffic stop.

NAPO urges you to strongly consider our concerns with this legislation. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, CAE
Executive Director