

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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**Executive Director**

June 24, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file officers from across the United States, I am writing to you to express full support for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2013 (S. 933). This legislation would extend the authorization of the BVP Grant Program through fiscal year 2018, and ensure that all of America's law enforcement officers are provided with the life-saving protection they need.

The BVP Grant Program is a critical resource for state and local jurisdictions. Based on data collected and recorded by Bureau of Justice Assistance staff, in fiscal year 2012, protective vests were directly responsible for saving the lives of at least 33 law enforcement and corrections officers in 20 different states, an increase of 13.7% over fiscal year 2011. At least 13 of those life-saving vests had been purchased, in part with BVP funds.

Over the past decade, this vital program has enabled the protection of nearly a half million officers. However, while many officers are protected by bullet-resistant armor, an alarming number of officers, many in small departments across the United States, are not afforded this same protection due to local budget constraints. NAPO strongly believes the advancement of this legislation is essential to assist state and local law enforcement efforts to purchase bullet resistant vests for their officers.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson  
Executive Director