



The Washington Report

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

January 26, 2015

NAPO WASHINGTON REPORT

NAPO in the News

Last week, NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson, was quoted in a Washington Times article that addressed states that are pushing to establish independent review boards that would have control of all investigations over fatal incidents that involve police officers.

In response to the request for the establishment of independent review boards, Johnson noted:

"I think the proponents of this, they always want to have it both ways...If the department, they feel, is too detached from the community, they criticize that. Now they're saying, 'We don't want people too involved in the community to review this.'"

Johnson also noted that outside independent investigators can help police departments in some instances by bringing in unique knowledge and perspectives. However, he explained that establishing a permanent independent review board would lead to situations where the board is passing judgment based on political pressure, not evidence. Johnson furthered: "The people who constitute this board, they're going to know the reason they're there in the first place is that people disagreed with the grand jury."

The full article is available at the following link: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/22/states-look-to-set-up-independent-boards-to-review/>.

NAPO will continue to advocate for the rights of law enforcement officers across the nation. If you have any questions about our efforts, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

Judiciary Committee Confirmation Hearings – Attorney General Nominee

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) plans to hold confirmation hearings for attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch on January 28-29, 2015.

President Barack Obama officially nominated Loretta Lynch, a United States attorney from New York, as the next Attorney General of the United States at a White House ceremony on November 8, 2014. Lynch is an experienced

prosecutor with deep relationships inside the Justice Department and a long history of litigating political corruption, terrorism, and organized crime cases.

NAPO continues to evaluate Attorney Lynch's nomination, and is closely following the confirmation process. We will continue to keep our members updated.

If you have any questions about this nomination, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

Source:

"Loretta Lynch, U.S. Attorney for N.Y., Nominated to Be Attorney General." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 8 Nov. 2014. Web. 08 Nov. 2014.

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act

On January 13, 2015, **Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)** reintroduced the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. This legislation would boost support for and protection of victims of human trafficking by increasing law enforcement resources, enhancing victims' services, and increasing penalties in an effort to combat child sex trafficking, child pornography, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

NAPO worked closely with Senator Cornyn's staff during the 113th Congress to advance this bill, which was passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee in September 2014. NAPO discussed this legislation at length with Senator Cornyn's staff on January 16, 2015, and sent the attached letter of support on January 21, 2015. We are commitment to working with the Senator to pass this important bill during the 114th Congress.

Senator Cornyn also highlighted NAPO as a supporter of the bill in his press release, which is available at the following link: http://www.cornyn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsReleases&ContentRecord_id=8358cac8-2ad6-4ce7-89b5-6c412731f3fa.

Additionally, a version of Senator Cornyn's Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, sponsored by **Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX)**, passed the House Judiciary Committee last week, and the House is scheduled to vote on the legislation tomorrow.

NAPO looks forward to working with Senator Cornyn and Congressman Poe to pass this legislation. If you have any questions about the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act

On January 16, 2015, NAPO discussed the "Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act" with senior staffers for **Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)** and **Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN)**. NAPO sent the attached letters of support for this legislation on January 20, 2015.

This legislation clarifies that both federal and state death benefits for the survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty should be treated the same and not be subjected to federal income tax. Survivor benefits for federal law enforcement officers are currently not subject to federal income tax, but there is some ambiguity about the treatment of these benefits for similar state-based programs.

Senator Ayotte and Congressman Paulsen introduced this legislation during the 113th Congress. NAPO immediately pledged our strong support for the legislation when it was introduced during the last Congress, and worked with both offices to advance the bill. (The Senate bill passed the Senate without opposition on September 18, 2014).

NAPO looks forward to working with Senator Ayotte and Congressman Paulsen to pass this important legislation during the 114th Congress. If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

JMHCA Teleconference

On January 21, 2015, NAPO participated in a teleconference with fellow stakeholders to discuss the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Act (JMHCA). 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 citizens with mental health issues.

NAPO expended much effort to garner support for the JMHCA during the last Congress, and was successful in building a strong bipartisan list of cosponsors in both chambers. NAPO also assisted in efforts to pass the bill out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. NAPO looks forward to working with the Senate bill's sponsor, **Senator Al Franken (D-MN)**, during this Congress to pass the legislation. We are scheduled to join other stakeholders in a meeting with Senator Franken's office to discuss this bill on January 29th.

NAPO will continue to provide our members with updates on the status of this legislation. If you have any questions about the JMHCA, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Electronic Communications Privacy Act

Last week, **Congressman Matt Salmon (R-AZ)** reintroduced the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) Amendments Act of 2015. This legislation is intended to bring outdated Federal electronic privacy laws into the digital age. The bill makes changes ECPA to establish a search warrant requirement for the government to obtain Americans' e-mails and other electronic communications from third-party service providers.

NAPO opposed this legislation last Congress, as it adds unnecessary warrant requirements. Warrants take much longer to secure as compared with the current practice of officers obtaining a court order. This is of particular concern in time critical cases, such as active kidnapping or child abduction cases. Moreover, warrants require an affidavit, which generally becomes public. These documents have the potential to expose law enforcement and informant identities and methods.

There are effective law enforcement policies and procedures already in place on these issues at the state and local level. The warrant requirement included in this legislation would present a huge obstacle to legitimate law enforcement needs. Furthermore, NAPO does not feel that a one-size fits all approach is appropriate for these matters.

NAPO will continue to express these concerns to members of Congress during this Congress, and keep our members updated on our efforts and the status of this legislation. If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

President Barack Obama has declared January 2015 as National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month. In his announcement, President Obama noted: "At home and around the globe, we must continue to fight for human dignity and the inalienable rights of every person."

As noted above, NAPO has expended a great deal of effort to pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking. This bill would ensure that law enforcement officers have the tools they need to rescue victims and dismantle trafficking networks.

Additionally, NAPO is scheduled to attend a roundtable discussion on human trafficking with DHS Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on January 28, 2015. The group will discuss efforts to combat human trafficking, including lessons learned, challenges, and potential areas for more collaboration.

NAPO will continue to provide updates on our efforts to end human trafficking. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

DOJ Law Enforcement Naloxone Toolkit Now Available

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has sent an announcement on the recently launched Law Enforcement Naloxone Toolkit from the Department of Justice. The toolkit is available on the [BJA NTTAC web site](#).

The Law Enforcement Naloxone Toolkit is a one-stop clearinghouse of information and resources for state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies interested in establishing a naloxone program. Naloxone is a potentially lifesaving drug known for effectively restoring breathing to a victim in the midst of a heroin or other opioid overdose.

Drug overdoses claim 110 American lives daily, more than those caused by gunshot wounds and motor vehicle crashes. The Department of Justice's Law Enforcement Naloxone Toolkit will give law enforcement officers and their agencies the knowledge and tools they need to prevent overdose incidents from becoming fatalities while awaiting the provision of emergency medical services.

This new toolkit includes 80 resources from 30 contributing law enforcement and public health agencies. Examples of the resources are data collection forms, standard operating procedures, law enforcement officer training guides, community outreach materials, and memoranda of agreement—all of which can be downloaded by agencies and customized for their own organization. Technical assistance is also available, upon request, to assist law enforcement agencies in implementing or enhancing a naloxone program.

For more information, visit the [BJA NTTAC web site](#).

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



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

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January 21, 2015

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our full support of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (S.178).

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.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act will provide resources to stop the growing problem of human trafficking and restore the lives of victims who have been impacted by this heinous crime. This comprehensive anti-human trafficking bill will also create new tools that will enhance law enforcement's ability to combat human trafficking across the United States.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important bill. Please let us know how we can be of further service, and please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director



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January 20, 2015
The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Ayotte:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I write to you to express our full support of the *Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act*.

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.

The *Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act* clarifies that both federal and state death benefits for the survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty should be treated the same, and not be subjected to federal income tax. This legislation will ensure that families of fallen officers are not forced to pay an excessive tax after their loved ones gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important bill. Please let us know how we can be of further assistance, and feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

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January 20, 2015
The Honorable Erik Paulsen
United States House of Representatives
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Paulsen:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I write to you to express our full support of the *Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act*.

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We look forward to working with you to pass this important bill. Please let us know how we can be of further assistance, and feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

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