

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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June 12, 2015

The Honorable Rand Paul
United States Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Paul:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act (S.1441).

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 transfer of surplus Federal equipment to state and local law enforcement departments has contributed to the safety of law enforcement personnel and the public they serve. NAPO is extremely concerned that the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act will inhibit the ability of law enforcement departments to access this critical equipment to keep our communities safe.

Furthermore, the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act includes limitations on purely defensive equipment, such as head and face protection equipment. Creating limitations on such equipment will further endanger the lives of law enforcement officers, who have increasingly become targets of revenge and ambush attacks.

This legislation will endanger the lives of police officers and communities across the nation. NAPO urges you to strongly consider our concerns. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

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

William J. Johnson
Executive Director