

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director

August 30, 2013

The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Education & the Workforce
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Miller:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to request that you reintroduce the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act during the 113th Congress. This important piece of legislation would extend collective bargaining rights to public safety officers.

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 officers 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.

Federal law has extended collective bargaining rights to a number of different sectors, but not to public safety officers. Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to preserve the security and peace that our nation enjoys. However, these same officers are denied the basic American right of collective bargaining for wages, hours, and safe working conditions.

Currently, many states do not allow public safety employees the fundamental right to bargain with their employers. History shows that denying workers the right to bargain collectively causes poor morale, the waste of resources, unfair and inadequate working conditions, and low productivity. Ultimately, it is the public's safety and security that is jeopardized by such poor working conditions.

In addition to providing public safety officers the right to bargain over wages, hours, and working conditions, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act would: provide for fact finding and mediation to resolve disputes; protect current state laws, certification, and collective bargaining agreements; preserve legitimate management rights; and give public safety officers the right to form and join a union or association of their own choosing.

This Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act prohibits strikes and does not call for mandatory arbitration. Moreover, states that offer equal or greater collective bargaining rights would be exempt from this statute. This legislation would not overturn current collective bargaining laws. It would provide only the most basic of collective bargaining rights to those who do not currently have them.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you to reintroduce and pass this important piece of legislation. If NAPO can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director