



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director

November 3, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice Science and
Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf,
Chair, Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice Science and
Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Chairman Wolf:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file police officers from across the United States, I would like to express our strong support for the funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program during conference committee negotiations.

During the Commerce Justice Science FY12 House committee markup, funding for the COPS Office and its programs were eliminated. While the elimination of COPS Hiring funds was attempted during the fiscal debate for FY11, a bipartisan majority of members voted to restore funds to the COPS Office. Given the opportunity for FY12 funding, NAPO believes this support would still hold true.

NAPO is encouraged by Chairman Wolf's expressions during the full committee markup to work to address funding towards the COPS Programs during conference. NAPO respectfully urges both chambers to consider the importance of providing adequate funds to COPS Hiring program.

The need to fund officers is critical. Approximately 30,000 law enforcement jobs are unfilled and 12,000 police officers and sheriffs deputies will be laid off by the end of 2011. This year could go on record for the first national decline in law enforcement officer positions in the past 25 years.

Allocations for COPS Hiring have been reduced significantly, from FY10 to FY11 the program was cut over \$51 million. As you know, the House Appropriations Committee zero-funded the COPS Hiring Program and the Senate only appropriated \$200 million before carve-outs. Restoring funds for COPS Hiring would not only allow for the hiring, rehiring or retention of officers, so but also protect our communities.

The reduction in law enforcement for 2011 is a factor for the spike in law enforcement fatalities. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 152 officers have been killed in the line of duty from January 1, 2011 to November 3, 2011. When considering the COPS Hiring program one must also take into account the safety of the thousands of rank-and-file officers who put their lives on the line.

NAPO is mindful of the current efforts to reduce the nation's budget deficit. NAPO respectfully requests that the conference committee keep in mind the importance of COPS Hiring program to our nation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Hedge, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

cc: Members of the FY12 Conference Committee
Representative Dave Reichert
Representative Bill Pascrell
NAPO President, Tom Nee