



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON  
Executive Director

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Jim Gerlach  
United States House of Representatives  
2442 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gerlach:

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 thank and commend you for your support of the Justice for Public Servants Act of 2011 (H.R.815).

Over the past decade the average reported assaults on law enforcement officers was 58,821. Nationally, attacks on law enforcement officers have significantly increased over the past year. In 2011 deaths have increased twenty percent.

H.R.815 would address this problem by amending the federal criminal code to make the killing or attempted killing of law enforcement officers and other first responders an aggravating factor in death penalty determinations. This change would expand the current law that already includes "high public officials" and would serve as a deterrent to future attacks.

NAPO believes H.R. 815 is essential to assist the law enforcement community in the protection of our nation's officers. If you have any questions on how NAPO can support your efforts, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Hedge, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson  
Executive Director

cc: Representative Steve Cohen