



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Patrolmen's Association

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Las Vegas Police
Protective Association

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New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director

March 2, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Commerce, Justice, Science
Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science
Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Hutchison:

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 of the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program at the level of the President's request of \$600 million.

Over the past 17 years, local law enforcement officers and the agencies they serve have made tremendous strides in reducing the level of crime and violence in our communities. This success was in large part due to the generous assistance and support given by the federal government through the COPS program to help hire and train new officers as well as retain experienced officers.

As state and local law enforcement take on more duties to protect our communities from rising crime and terrorist threats, federal support of this vital assistance program is critical. The COPS Office has funded the addition of nearly 117,000 officers and has awarded over 40,000 grants to policing jurisdictions across the United States. While this may seem like a high number, the need for COPS Hiring is an even greater priority. This year alone we have seen a spike in law enforcement fatalities, while there are even more law enforcement lay-offs as a result of state and local budget shortfalls.

During the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the COPS Office received over 7,200 applications for the \$1 billion in funds available through the COPS Hiring Recovery Program. This amount, however, aided only fraction of applicants leaving \$7.4 billion in unanswered hiring requests.

The COPS Hiring Program reduces crime and creates new jobs. NAPO knows putting rank-and-file officers on our streets will reduce crime in our communities. NAPO is also mindful of the current efforts to reduce the nation's budget deficit. These is why during these tough economic times we too will do our part and forgo full funding to the COPS Hiring Program authorized at \$1.047 billion and respectfully request the President's Budget level of \$600 million.

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) 549-0774.

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

cc: Members of the United States Senate and United State House of Representatives
NAPO Board of Directors

Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association • International Union of Police Associations • Major County Chiefs' Association • Major County Sheriffs' Association • National Association of Police Organizations • National Narcotics Officers Association Coalition • National Sheriffs' Association • National Troopers Coalition

March 1, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Hutchison:

On behalf of the Law Enforcement community across the United States, representing more than 491,000 state, local and tribal law enforcement members, we are writing to express our unified support for the funding of the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program at the level of the President's request of \$600 million. Rather than requesting the full funding amount of 1.047 billion dollars for COPS grants, we respectfully petition for the COPS Hiring Program to be funded at the amount proposed by the President.

Since its inception in 1994, the COPS program has provided law enforcement agencies with the resources necessary to mount effective anti-crime programs. To date, the COPS Office has funded the addition of nearly 117,000 officers and awarded more than 40,000 grants to 13,300 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to advance community policing in all jurisdictions across the United States.

Appropriations for COPS Hiring remained constant until FY2000, when appropriations decreased significantly. This decrease runs counter to the increased need for COPS Hiring funds. In fact, during the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act the COPS Office received over 7,200 applications for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant funds. These agencies requested approximately \$8.4 billion to fund nearly 40,000 positions needed nationwide. The \$1 billion appropriated to CHRP was only able to fund a fraction of that amount. Consequently, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies continue to struggle to rebuild their departments. In order for our communities to get the protection and service they need, particularly as state, local and tribal budgets are tighter than ever, it is critical that the COPS Hiring program receives a significant level of funding for FY2011 and beyond.

The COPS Hiring program continually demonstrates proven results in crime reduction. A report issued by the GAO estimated that in 2000, the peak year of COPS hiring grants, the program increased the overall number of sworn officers and suggests that COPS contributed to a 1.3% decline in overall crime rates from 1993-2000 and a 2.5% decline in violent crime rates over this period. The COPS Hiring program is economically sound and a proven investment with positive results.

This program creates new jobs and benefits the entire nation.

As representatives of our nation's law enforcement community, we are mindful of the current economy and high deficit. We are also aware that, in today's economic climate, there has been an increase in violent crime, drug sales, threats to homeland security and the public's safety. Restoring federal support for the COPS Hiring program is an effective way to protect our neighborhoods. It is also a way to create jobs and continue rebuilding our local economies. Putting more officers on the streets is the most cost-effective way to reduce crime.

As legislators, you have a challenge to administer the government with dwindling resources. However, we must all work together to create jobs, maintain safety and protect our homeland security. Providing funds to the COPS Hiring program will aid in accomplishing these objectives.

Today's law enforcement officers face new and daunting threats on a daily basis. Law enforcement has been stretched to its limits. This year alone has shown a deadly trend for our officers. Since the start of 2011, there already have been 26 officer fatalities. Allocating the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring program at \$600 million is a vital step towards giving law enforcement the resources it needs to do its job effectively.

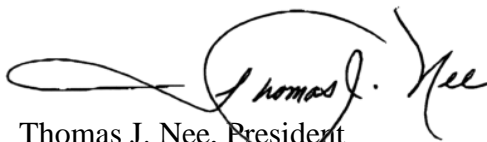
We respectfully urge Congress take the vital step of allocating \$600 million to COPS Hiring to enable state, local and tribal law enforcement to have the resources necessary to protect and serve their communities nationwide.

On behalf of the law enforcement community, we thank you for your attention to this important matter and your leadership efforts on this critical issue.

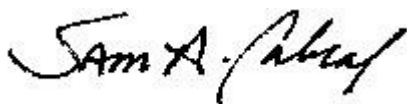
Sincerely,



Jon Adler, President
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association



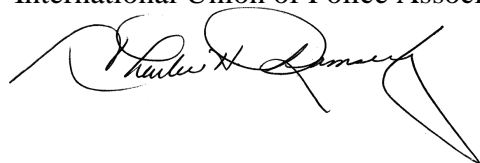
Thomas J. Nee, President
National Association of Police Organizations



Samuel A. Cabral, International President
International Union of Police Association



Ronald E. Brooks, President
National Narcotics Officers Association
Coalition



Charles Ramsey, Commissioner
Major County Chiefs' Association



Sheriff B.J. Roberts, President
National Sheriffs' Association



Sheriff Doug Gillespie, President
Major County Sheriffs' Association



Dennis J. Hallion, Executive Director
National Troopers Coalition

The Honorable Patrick Leahy and The Honorable Chuck Grassley