

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director

June 7, 2011

The Honorable Herb Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kohl and Senator Manchin:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file police officers from across the United States, I am writing to advise you of our support for the "National Silver Alert Act". This legislation creates a system based on the successful Amber Alert Network, that will assist state and local law enforcement to locate seniors with Alzheimer's disease or dementia who go missing.

Alzheimer's disease impacts more than five million Americans and about sixty percent of those adults will wander away from their homes. Alzheimer's and dementia will continue to affect more lives, creating the need for a robust system to help protect one of our nation's most vulnerable populations.

The "National Silver Alert Act" directs the Attorney General to establish a communications network to assist regional and local search efforts for missing seniors and requires the Department of Justice to assign an officer to serve as the Silver Alert Coordinator. This national system will establish minimum standards for using and disseminating alerts issued through the network.

This Act will further close the gaps in our nation's missing persons networks and provide peace of mind to the millions of families affected by these terrible diseases. NAPO supports this legislation as economically feasible and essential for our communities.

We thank you for your continued support of the law enforcement community and look forward to working with you to fight for the passage of this bill. 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,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

CC: Representative Lloyd Doggett