



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

July 13, 2021

MICHAEL McHALE
President
Florida Police Benevolent
Association

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President
Patrolmen's Benevolent
Association of New York City

TODD HARRISON
Recording Secretary
Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN
Treasurer
Massachusetts Coalition
of Police

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Sergeant-at-Arms
New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association

CRAIG D. LALLY
Executive Secretary
Los Angeles Police
Protective League

MARK YOUNG
Vice President,
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Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association

JAMES PALMER
Parliamentarian
Wisconsin Professional Police
Association

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE
Executive Director and
General Counsel

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to thank you for your consistent leadership in supporting federal assistance to state and local law enforcement and criminal justice programs, particularly the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program, the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program. As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year 2022 spending bills, we respectfully request that any provisions that would hamper a state or local government or law enforcement agency from accessing these vital grant programs not be included.

The House FY22 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill that was approved by the Appropriations Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee on July 12 illustrates support for Department of Justice state and local law enforcement assistance programs. It recognizes that these programs provide invaluable resources, training, and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies, keeping our communities safe. However, we have serious concerns with provisions within the CJS Appropriations bill that attempt to pursue the goals of the partisan George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 1280) and attach strings to these programs, particularly the Byrne JAG Program and the COPS Program.

The most concerning are the requirements that state and local law enforcement agencies must begin or have completed an accreditation process and must be certified by the Attorney General to have met certain standards laid out in the legislation to receive FY 22 state and local law enforcement assistance grants. These provisions have the potential to jeopardize public safety by withholding much needed grant funds from states and localities as there is no reasonable way for many of these requirements to be completed by the next fiscal year. This effectively would "defund" many law enforcement agencies and negatively impact public safety at a time when violent crime rates are skyrocketing in cities and communities across the country.

Further, Congress has yet to unify around police reform policies and good-faith negotiations are still on-going. Including the contentious requirements and provisions of H.R. 1280, which has not passed the Senate, could work to undermine the bipartisan discussions on reform.

We strongly urge you to leave these controversial provisions out of the final Fiscal 2022 CJS appropriations bill. NAPO believes that such policies should not be forced through as part of the appropriations process.

Again, we thank you for your work and leadership on these important issues. Please contact me at (703) 549-0775 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

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, Esq.
Executive Director