



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS September 12, 2017

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Executive Director and

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell

Majority Leader

United States Senate

S-230 U.S. Capitol

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to advise you of our strong opposition to Amendment #872 to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal 2018, offered by Senator Rand Paul. This amendment, which claims to stop the militarization of law enforcement, would only serve to restrict officers from accessing lifesaving gear they need to defend themselves and the civilians they are sworn to protect.

NAPO is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

Programs like the Department of Defense's (DOD) 1033 program and grant programs at the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security have been vital resources in allowing state and local law enforcement to acquire items used in search and rescue operations, disaster response, and active shooter situations that they otherwise would not be able to afford. This equipment has not led to the "militarization" of police, but rather has proven to be essential in protecting communities against violent criminals with increasing access to sophisticated weaponry, IEDs, body armor and sometimes even armored vehicles.

Furthermore, Amendment #872 to H.R. 2810 includes limitations on purely defensive equipment, such as head, face and body protection equipment. Creating limitations on such gear will further endanger the lives of law enforcement officers, who have increasingly become targets of revenge and ambush attacks.

This amendment will endanger the lives of police officers and communities across the nation. NAPO urges you to strongly consider our concerns. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,



William J. Johnson, Esq.
Executive Director