



Legislative Positions for the 114th Congress

National Association of Police Organizations

317 South Patrick Street • Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3501 • 703-549-0775 • Fax 703-684-0515

• www.napo.org •

Position	Bill	Date	Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status	Explanation/NAPO Actions
Support	S.125	1/8/2015	Patrick Leahy (D-VT)	The "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2015"	<i>A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.</i> 8 cosponsors	1/8/2015 Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee	<p>This legislation extends the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and ensures that America's law enforcement officers are provided with the life-saving protection they need.</p> <p>The BVP Grant Program is a critical resource for state and local jurisdictions. Over the past decade, this vital program has enabled the protection of over one million officers. However, while many officers are protected by bullet-resistant armor, an alarming number of officers, many in small departments across the United States, are not afforded this same protection due to local budget constraints.</p> <p><u>NAPO believes this legislation is essential to assist state and local law enforcement efforts to purchase bullet resistant vests for their officers. NAPO has discussed the importance of this legislation with senior staffers for Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Patrick Leahy (R-VT), and will continue to work with fellow stakeholders to garner support for this legislation.</u></p>
Support	S.178	1/13/2015	John Cornyn (R-TX)	The "Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act"	<i>A bill to provide justice for victims of trafficking.</i> 19 cosponsors	1/13/2015 Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee	<p>This bill is a comprehensive anti-human trafficking bill, focused on rescuing domestic victims, tracking down their exploiters, and prosecuting every criminal responsible for modern-day slavery.</p> <p>This legislation creates a deficit-neutral "Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund," financed entirely through increased fines on persons convicted of federal crimes of human trafficking, child pornography, sexual exploitation, and human smuggling. This Fund would supplement the appropriations for existing domestic human trafficking deterrence and victim support with tens of millions of dollars of much-needed funding.</p> <p>The legislation also increases access to</p>

Position	Bill	Date	Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status	Explanation/NAPO Actions
							<p>services for American citizen victims of human trafficking by allowing them to obtain official recognition of their status from the Department of Health and Human Services.</p> <p>Finally, the bill creates a series of new tools and authorities that will enhance law enforcement's ability to dismantle the vast criminal networks and cartels involved in human trafficking.</p> <p><u>NAPO continues to be a strong supporter of this legislation. NAPO has communicated our support to Senator Cornyn, who has highlighted NAPO's efforts to pass this bill in recent press releases. NAPO is committed to working with the Senator to ensure the passage of this important legislation.</u></p>
Under Review	S. 255	1/26/2015	Rand Paul (R-KY)	The "Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration (FAIR) Act"	<i>A bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes. 2 cosponsors</i>	1/26/2015 Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee	<p>The FAIR Act changes federal law by requiring that the government prove its case with clear and convincing evidence before forfeiting seized property. The legislation removes the profit incentive for forfeiture by redirecting forfeitures assets from the Attorney General's Asset Forfeiture Fund to the Treasury's General Fund.</p> <p><u>NAPO will continue to stay engaged on this issue, and ensure our members' voices are heard as the legislation moves forward. We will keep our members updated on the status of this initiative.</u></p>
Support	S. 322	1/29/2015	Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)	The "Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act"	<i>A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents</i>	1/29/2015 Referred to the Senate Finance Committee	<p>This legislation clarifies that both federal and state death benefits for the survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty should be treated the same and not be subjected to federal income tax. Survivor benefits for federal law enforcement officers are currently not subject to federal income tax, but there is some ambiguity about the treatment of these benefits for similar state-based programs.</p> <p><u>NAPO has worked closely with Senator</u></p>

Position	Bill	Date	Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status	Explanation/NAPO Actions
					<i>from gross income.</i> 3 cosponsors		<u>Ayotte's staff to garner support for this legislation, which passed the Senate during the 113th Congress. NAPO looks forward to working with Senator Ayotte to pass this bill during the 114th Congress.</u>
Support	H.R. 181	1/7/2015	Ted Poe (R-TX)	The "Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act"	<i>A bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.</i> 16 cosponsors	1/27/2015 Bill passed House, as amended, by voice vote	<p>Among other tenets, this legislation repurposes and reauthorizes a grant program to create a victim-centered model block grant to help state and local governments develop and implement comprehensive victim-centered programs to train law enforcement to rescue victims, prosecute human traffickers, and restore the lives of victims. The bill also allows state and local human trafficking taskforces to obtain wiretap warrants within their own state courts, without federal approval, in order to investigate crimes of child pornography, child sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.</p> <p>The bill reduces demand for human trafficking by clarifying current law and encouraging police, prosecutors, judges, and juries to target and punish persons who purchase illicit sexual activities from trafficking victims as human traffickers, rather than petty criminals.</p> <p><u>This legislation is a scaled down version of Senator Cornyn's Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. NAPO is working to ensure the more robust version becomes law, but does not object to any of the tenets outlined in Congressman Poe's bill.</u></p> <p><i>For additional information, please see S.178.</i></p>
Support	H.R. 228	1/8/2015	Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ)	The "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2015"	<i>To amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization</i>	1/8/2015 Referred to the House Judiciary Committee	<u>NAPO strongly believes the advancement of this legislation is essential to assist state and local law enforcement efforts to purchase bullet resistant vests for their officers. NAPO has conveyed our commitment to passing this legislation to Congressman LoBiondo. We will expend all available efforts to garner</u>

Position	Bill	Date	Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status	Explanation/NAPO Actions
					<i>of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2018.</i> 10 cosponsors		<u>support for this legislation.</u> <i>For additional information, please see S.125.</i>
Oppose	H.R. 283	1/12/2015	Matt Salmon (R-AZ)	The "Electronic Communications Privacy Act Amendments Act of 2015"	<i>A bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communication.</i> 2 cosponsors	1/12/2015 Referred to the House Judiciary Committee	<p>This legislation is intended to bring outdated Federal electronic privacy laws into the digital age. The bill makes changes to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) to establish a search warrant requirement for the government to obtain Americans' e-mails and other electronic communications from third-party service providers.</p> <p><u>NAPO strongly opposes adding warrant requirements. Warrants take much longer to secure as compared with the current practice of officers obtaining a court order. This is of particular concern in time-critical cases, such as active kidnapping or child abduction cases. Moreover, warrants require an affidavit, which generally becomes public. These documents have the potential to expose law enforcement and informant identities and methods.</u></p> <p><u>The warrant requirement would present a huge obstacle to legitimate law enforcement needs and NAPO does not feel that a one-size fits all approach is appropriate for these matters. NAPO will continue to express these concerns to members of Congress.</u></p>
Oppose	H.R. 306	1/13/2015	Steve Cohen (D-TN)	The "National Statistics on Deadly Force Transparency Act"	<i>A bill to require the Attorney General to issue rules pertaining to the collection and compilation</i>	1/13/2015 Referred to the House Judiciary Committee	<p>This bill would incentivize states, through Byrne-JAG penalties, to require local law enforcement agencies to provide the following data to the Attorney General on use of force incidents: the date of each instance when deadly force was used; identifying characteristics of the</p>

Position	Bill	Date	Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status	Explanation/NAPO Actions
					<i>of data on the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers.</i> 0 cosponsors		<p>victim and officer involved; any alleged criminal behavior by the victim; explanation by the relevant law enforcement agency of why deadly force was used; copy of any use of deadly force guidelines in effect at the time at the law enforcement agency; nature of the deadly force used; and a description of any non-lethal efforts that were taken before deadly force was used.</p> <p><u>NAPO opposes this bill. Despite all of the requirements included in the bill, the language is vague, and does not appropriately address all scenarios. Most importantly, it does not provide a comprehensive definition of "deadly force."</u></p> <p><u>NAPO will continue to voice our concerns as the legislation is considered.</u></p>
Oppose	H.R. 429	1/21/2015	Hank Johnson (D-GA)	The "Grand Jury Reform Act of 2015"	<i>A bill to provide that in the case of a law enforcement officer who uses deadly force against a person, and thereby causes the death of that person, a hearing shall be conducted before a judge to determine whether there is probable cause for the State to bring criminal charges against the law enforcement</i>	1/29/2015 Referred to the House Judiciary Committee	<p>The bill requires the appointment of a special prosecutor to conduct an investigation and present the results to a judge in a probable cause hearing, open to the public, whenever a police officer kills an individual while acting in the line of duty.</p> <p>The legislation also specifies that in order for local law enforcement agencies to receive federal funding, they would have to comply with this new process. If enacted, the governor of the state where the incident in question occurred would appoint a prosecutor, who would present evidence on behalf of the state at the hearing.</p> <p><u>NAPO opposes this legislation. Among other concerns that we have with the bill, a special prosecutor, appointed by a governor, would be under a great deal of pressure to justify his/her work. There is a risk that decisions to prosecute would be made based on politics, not on the law and admissible evidence. NAPO fears that an officer would be indicted, even if he/she did nothing wrong.</u></p>

Position	Bill	Date	Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status	Explanation/NAPO Actions
					<i>officer relating to the death of the person, and for other purposes.</i> 24 cosponsors		<u>NAPO will continue to voice these concerns as the legislation is considered.</u>
Under Review	H.R. 540	1/27/2015	Tim Walberg (R-MI)	The "Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration (FAIR) Act"	<i>A bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.</i> 4 cosponsors	1/27/2015 Referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee; House Financial Services Committee; House Ways and Means Committee, and House Judiciary Committee	<u>NAPO will continue to stay engaged on this issue, and ensure our members' voices are heard as the legislation moves forward. We will keep our members updated on the status of this initiative.</u> <i>For additional information on this legislation, please see S.255.</i>
Support	H.R. 606	1/28/2015	Erik Paulsen (R-MN)	The "Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act"	<i>A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.</i> 4 cosponsors	1/28/2015 Referred to the House Ways and Means Committee	<u>NAPO continues to work closely with Congressman Paulsen's staff to garner support for this legislation. NAPO looks forward to working with Congressman Paulsen to pass this bill during the 114th Congress.</u> <i>For additional information on this legislation, please see S.322.</i>