



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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March 6, 2015

The Honorable Dave Reichert
United States House of Representatives
1127 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reichert:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our full support of the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015 (H.R. 1269).

NAPO is a coalition of police unions 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.

We are grateful that you have introduced this legislation, which will create a nationwide alert system to apprehend violent criminals who have injured or killed a police officer or who have made an imminent or credible threat to cause serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer.

Individuals who attack law enforcement officers are the most dangerous criminals, and every effort must be made to apprehend these individuals as quickly as possible. A Blue Alert system will allow information on these suspects to be disseminated to law enforcement, the public, and the media, to ensure that these dangerous criminals are apprehended before they can do more harm.

This critical legislation is named after New York City Police Department Detectives and members of NAPO, Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu. These heroes were assassinated while serving their community. Their killer posted threats to law enforcement on social media before the attack. Implementing a Blue Alert system will help to ensure that information on credible threats, like those posted by the individual who killed Detectives Ramos and Liu, is widely disseminated so that officers have advanced warning, and can expeditiously apprehend these violent criminals.

NAPO strongly believes this legislation is necessary for the law enforcement community and the public they serve and protect. We stand ready to support any efforts necessary to pass this important legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director