



The Washington Report

The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations

Representing America's Finest

March 16, 2015

NAPO's Executive Director Meets with Acting Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates

On March 12, 2015, NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson, met with Acting Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates at the Department of Justice (DOJ).

During the meeting, Ms. Yates indicated she wanted "to press the reset button" in the DOJ's relations with state, county, and local law enforcement. NAPO was the only rank and file group there for state and local law enforcement. NAPO thanked her for the meeting, but was careful to point out that not all law enforcement groups agreed with the recent actions and statements by DOJ and its leaders.

Also, NAPO expressed concern that the COPS Office at DOJ seems to have departed from the original intent of the law which set up that office. NAPO was the single strongest supporter of the COPS program when it started in the 1990s, and its success was predicated upon the recognition that local law enforcement and chiefs and mayors knew best what was needed in their own particular communities. COPS hiring funding thus went directly to communities to hire new officers, and was not funneled through states or governors. Now, the COPS Office has clearly departed from that successful model, and proposes to impose "one size fits all" policies on departments across the country. This is directly contrary to the intent and spirit of the law, and risks doing away with the single biggest key to the COPS Program success: local control to fix local problems. NAPO pointed out that the policies the COPS Office is contemplating would fit better within the DOJ's Civil Rights office, and that the COPS program should stick to helping hire local police officers.

NAPO also urged that the Attorney General make strong and constant statements of support for state and local officers.

NAPO will continue to engage the Administration and members of Congress to ensure our voices are heard loud and clear as new proposals are developed that will impact our members. If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO in the News

NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson, was quoted in a *St. Louis Dispatch* article regarding Congressional debates related to police practices.

When asked about body cameras, Johnson noted: "Body cameras can be useful tools, number one [but] they are not going to catch everything that goes on or answer every question."

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The full article is available at the following link: http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/gateway-to-dc/ferguson-related-bills-on-way-in-congress-but-prognosis-is/article_886cf765-0c1e-566d-a4ae-011ec17f28fd.html.

NAPO continues to stress the importance of including state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as law enforcement leadership, in discussions regarding body camera requirements. We also continue to note that body camera requirement decisions should be made on an agency-by-agency basis.

NAPO is closely monitoring new policies and legislation regarding officer-worn body cameras, and will provide our members with updates as they become available.

If you have any questions about this interview or our stance on body camera policies, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

Suspect Arrested in Shooting of Two Officers in Ferguson

“Authorities have charged a 20-year-old man from the St. Louis area with shooting two officers during a protest last week in Ferguson, and they said the alleged gunman had attended the protest earlier in the night” (Fahrenthold & Lowery).

“Jeffrey Williams was arrested late Saturday and charged with two counts of first-degree assault. The top prosecutor in St. Louis County, Robert McCulloch, said police relied on tips from the public to identify Williams. He said Williams had admitted firing the shots that struck the officers as they stood guard outside Ferguson police headquarters” (Fahrenthold & Lowery).

NAPO is concerned that political leaders have contributed to an environment of extreme hostility in Ferguson and communities across the nation. Our nation’s leaders continue to crucify and demonize law enforcement officers as these officers work tirelessly and selflessly to protect us. We need the support of our political leaders as our officers continue to work to build trust in the communities they serve and protect.

NAPO is not going to rest until officers receive the support and protection that they need to do their jobs and to stay safe. We urge our officers to continue to be vigilant and stay safe during this time.

Source:

Lowery, Wesley, and David Fahrenthold. "Police: Suspect Arrested in Shooting of Two Officers in Ferguson." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 16 Mar. 2015. Web. 16 Mar. 2015.

NAPO’s Legislative Priorities Booklet for the 114th Congress

NAPO continues to work diligently to ensure that our top legislative priorities stay at the forefront of the Congressional agenda. The following link includes our updated Legislative Priorities booklet for the 114th Congress: http://www.napo.org/files/8614/2652/0101/Legislative_Priorities_Booklet_-_114th_Congress_-_Website.pdf.

Please feel free to use this booklet as a resource when you talk to your members of Congress.

If you have any questions about NAPO’s legislative priorities for the 114th Congress, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

NAPO Meetings on Capitol Hill: James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act

On March 13, 2015, NAPO joined fellow stakeholders in meetings with senior staffers for **Senators Roy Blunt (R-MO), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and Rob Portman (R-OH)** to discuss the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act. NAPO used the meetings to stress our strong support for the Zadroga bill, and requested assistance in moving the legislation through Congress as expeditiously as possible.

The Zadroga bill's two critical programs providing medical treatment and compensation for 9/11 heroes – the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund – are set to expire in October 2015 and October 2016 respectively. This legislation would continue these programs for 25 more years, through 2041.

9/11 responders and survivors are still battling serious health crises resulting from exposure to the toxins at Ground Zero. More than 30,000 9/11 responders and survivors have an illness or injury caused by the attacks or their aftermath, and over two-thirds of those have more than one illness. Many are disabled and can no longer work. They are suffering from a host of chronic diseases: asthma, obstructive pulmonary disease and gastroesophageal reflux disease, and many more.

Medical research has identified more than 60 types of cancer caused by 9/11 toxins. More than 2,900 people have been diagnosed with cancers caused or made worse by the aftermath of the attacks - more than 800 New York Fire Department members and more than 550 New York Police Department personnel are struggling with serious 9/11-related illnesses, not including the more than 70 firefighters and 60 NYPD officers who have died from their 9/11-related illnesses.

Responders came from all over the country to aid in the response to the attacks. And some area residents, workers, and survivors have since moved and are currently receiving care in cities and states across the country. Participants enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Program for treatment currently reside in all 50 states and in 429 of the 435 Congressional districts in the country.

These heroes put their lives on the line to serve us, and must be afforded every resource available as they cope with chronic health conditions caused by exposure to toxic chemicals at the World Trade Center.

This legislation will also honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation. James Zadroga, a New York City Police Department Detective and member of NAPO, died of respiratory disease caused by his exposure to toxic chemicals at Ground Zero. It is our obligation and duty to remember these heroes and ensure that survivors who risked their lives to protect us continue to receive the treatment and compensation that they deserve.

The staffers were very receptive to our proposal. NAPO looks forward to working with members of Congress and key law enforcement stakeholders to reintroduce and pass this important legislation during the 114th Congress.

If you have any questions about this bill, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Source:

"Lawmakers Introduce Critical Reauthorization of James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act."
Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. N.p., 17 Sept. 2014. Web. 19 Sept. 2014.

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act

NAPO continues to work closely with **Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)** and his staff to pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. This legislation would boost support for and protection of victims of human trafficking by increasing law enforcement resources, enhancing victims' services, and increasing penalties in an effort to combat child sex trafficking, child pornography, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

The bill has been stalled after Democrats accused Republicans of adding anti-abortion language into the bill. However, before last week, this bill had strong bipartisan support, and passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee without opposition.

Over the weekend, **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)** said that the confirmation of Loretta Lynch as attorney general may hinge on whether Congress works out its gridlock over the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

NAPO has worked closely with Senator Cornyn and fellow stakeholders to garner support for this legislation. Last week, NAPO participated in a conference call hosted by Senator Cornyn, who provided an update on the bill's status and assurance of his commitment to pass this important legislation.

We are committed to continuing to work with Senator Cornyn and his staff to ensure this legislation is passed. We will keep our members updated on the status of this bill and the confirmation process for the next attorney general.

If you have any questions about the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act or the attorney general nomination, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Source:

Ye Hee Lee, Michelle. "McConnell: No Loretta Lynch Confirmation until Vote on Human Trafficking Bill." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 15 Mar. 2015. Web. 15 Mar. 2015.

TAKE ACTION!

Support Byrne-JAG & MIOTCRA Funding

Congressional sign-on letters in support of funding for the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) Program and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) are circulating in the House and Senate.

Known as "Dear Colleagues," these letters are an important way for Members of Congress to express their support for particular programs to the Appropriations Committees at the beginning of the annual funding cycle.

For the past several years, these Congressional sign-on letters have attracted broad bipartisan support. **We encourage you to ask the members of your Congressional delegations to sign on to these letters.**

The Senate letter in support of the Byrne-JAG Program is led by **Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA)** and **Maria Cantwell (D-WA)**. The House letter in support of MIOTCRA funding is led by **Congressmen Leonard Lance (R-NJ)**, **Bobby Scott (D-VA)**, **Doug Collins (R-GA)**, and **John Conyers (D-MI)**. The letters thank Appropriations subcommittees for their strong support in the past and ask for continued strong funding in FY16. (The letters are attached to this report for your convenience and review).

Members of the Senate wishing to sign the Grassley/Cantwell letter should contact Evelyn Fortier in Senator Grassley's office (evelyn.fortier@judiciary-rep.senate.gov) or Rico Janssen in Senator Cantwell's office (rico.janssen@cantwell.senate.gov) by COB Monday, March 23rd.

House offices wishing to sign the Lance/Scott/Collins/Convers letter should contact Ryan Farrell with Congressman Lance (ryan.farrell@mail.house.gov) or Sally Rose Larson with Congressman Doug Collins (sally.larson@mail.house.gov) by COB Friday, March 20th.

This is an important step in the Congressional appropriations process. We appreciate your help to show the importance of these programs in your communities.

If you have any questions about either of these programs, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

NAPO Supports the RAISE Act

Last week, NAPO pledged our support for the Responsible Additions and Increases to Sustain Employee (RAISE) Health Benefits Act of 2015 (H.R. 1185), sponsored by **Congressman Steve Stivers (R-OH)**. This bill responds to individuals who have been negatively impacted by guidelines set forth in the Affordable Care Act regarding Flexible Spending Arrangements (FSAs). (NAPO's letter of support is attached to this report for your convenience and review).

Law enforcement officers across the United States rely on FSAs to pay for healthcare services and items that are not covered by insurance. Officers have been negatively impacted by guidelines set forth in the Affordable Care Act, which decreased the amount an officer could contribute to an FSA from \$5,000 per year to \$2,500 per year. Even more, these accounts' end-of-year balances do not roll over from year to year, and the remaining funds are forfeited.

The RAISE Act solves these issues by canceling the "use-it-or-lose-it" rule for all FSAs, allowing families to build balances over several years. The bill also doubles the current FSA annual contribution cap to \$5,000 per year and allows families with more than two dependents to save an additional \$500 a year for each additional dependent.

In today's economic climate, it is important to maximize personal savings, especially in regard to an officer's annual healthcare expenses. The RAISE Act will ensure that officers can build savings needed to address their families' medical costs.

NAPO looks forward to working with Congressman Stivers to pass his important legislation. If you have any questions about this bill, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

NAPO Supports the SALTS Act

Last week, NAPO sent the attached letter of support for the Synthetic Abuse and Labeling of Toxic Substances (SALTS) Act of 2015 (H.R. 1183), sponsored by **Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-TX)**.

The SALTS Act will address the growing problems associated with synthetic drugs. There have been reports from states around the country of people acting violently while under the influence of these drugs, leading to deaths or injuries to themselves and others. While taking these drugs, people can experience elevated heart rates and blood pressure, hallucinations, seizures, and extreme agitation. By making it easier to prove that synthetic drugs are intended for human consumption, this legislation will help law enforcement in their efforts to get these drugs off the streets and out of stores.

NAPO looks forward to working with Congressman Thornberry and his staff to pursue the passage of this bill. If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

NAPO Attends Blue Mass Steering Committee Meeting

On March 10, 2015, NAPO participated in the first committee meeting on the 21st Annual Blue Mass. The Blue Mass is held each year at the beginning of National Police Week at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. Representatives of federal and local law enforcement and public safety agencies from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area attend the Blue Mass to pray for those in law enforcement and fire safety, remember those who have fallen, and support those who serve.

This year's Blue Mass is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 12:10pm. (The flyer is attached to this report for your review).

If you have any questions about the Blue Mass, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Law Enforcement Letter Regarding ALPR Technology

Last week, NAPO joined other law enforcement groups on a letter to Congressional leadership to express concerns about efforts to portray automated license plate recognition (ALPR) technology as a national real-time tracking capability for law enforcement. (The letter is attached to this report for your convenience and review).

False story lines, misinformation, and sensational letters about ALPR technology are creating unfounded fear. The fact is that this technology and the data it generates is **not** used to track people in real time, but is used every single day to generate investigative leads, solve murders, rapes, and serial property crimes, recover abducted children, detect drug and human trafficking rings, apprehend criminal alien fugitives, and support terrorism investigations.

Reports of persistent, continuous government tracking of individuals using ALPR information are factually inaccurate. Attempts by some advocates and legislators to curtail the use of technology by law enforcement without a proper and fair oversight effort to truly understand the nature of the data, how it is used, and how it is protected is very concerning.

The letter responds to harmful proposals, appropriations amendments, and legislation to restrict or completely ban law enforcement's use of ALPR technology and data without any effort to truly understand the issue. Any basic review would make clear that the legitimate value of this technology is beyond question, and that protections against misuse of the data by law enforcement are already in place.

The law enforcement groups stressed that if misguided legislative efforts to curtail ALPR use are successful, federal, state, and local law enforcement's ability to investigate crimes will be significantly impacted given the extensive use of the technology today.

NAPO joined the other groups in urging Congress to recognize the substantial daily benefits of this technology to protect the public and investigate dangerous criminals. We also urged opposition to any bill or amendment that would restrict the use of ALPR technology without full consideration of the issue.

If you have any questions about this issue, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

ATF Drops Proposed Ammo Ban

Last week, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said it was dropping the proposal to change the 1968 Gun Control Act that would ban M855 ammunition due to overwhelming public opposition.

NAPO is closely following this issue, and we will keep our members updated on all relevant news regarding ATF's proposal. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org .

Date

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Mikulski:

We write to thank you for your strong and consistent support of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program, and for the funding in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015. We write to ask that you maintain funding for the program in the fiscal year 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

As thoughtful stewards of taxpayer money, we must continually assess where federal support is necessary and appropriate. It is clear to us that the strong foundation of federal, state, and local partnerships built from the Byrne JAG program remains as vital as ever.

One of the highest responsibilities of government is to protect its citizens and ensure public safety. We are concerned that regional, national and international gangs and drug trafficking organizations are increasingly driving the crime on our streets, embedding criminal activity deeper into our rural communities, and driving a dangerous new wave of heroin addiction across the country. Byrne JAG-funded programs facilitate cross-governmental intelligence and information sharing on terror and criminal threats, drug and human trafficking organizations and sexual predators. This collaboration is essential to address today's criminal networks that cross city, state and even international boundaries.

Nationwide, the overall crime rate is at its lowest level since the 1960s due in part to advances in policing, information technology, offender management, and cross-jurisdictional coordination support by the Byrne JAG program. Crime in some communities, however, is on the rise again, reminding us that we must never become complacent when it comes to the safety of our citizens. Federal support for Byrne JAG and state and local law enforcement is our first line of defense against criminals and the Byrne JAG program is vital in combating crimes of all types.

Through Byrne JAG, the Department of Justice (DOJ) plays a crucial role in spurring innovation and testing cost-effective, evidence-based approaches to fighting crime. With over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., cross-jurisdictional learning and coordination cannot happen effectively without federal support.

Furthermore, crime prevention and control can be truly successful only when the criminal justice system is in balance, with all of the parts functioning effectively. Byrne JAG's flexibility allows state and local governments to target their most pressing needs in law enforcement, prevention, pretrial services and treatment, courts, corrections, crime victims' services, prosecution and defense, and post-incarceration reentry services. Byrne JAG also leverages the massive investment that already occurs regularly in these programs at the state and local level.

We know of your steadfast commitment to the Byrne JAG program in years past, and we ask for your continued support in the fiscal year 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

March XX, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Room H-309, The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Fattah,

We write to express our strong support for funding of the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) in the FY 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill. This program provides states and local governments with necessary resources to plan and implement initiatives for people with mental disorders involved with the criminal justice system in order to increase public safety, reduce state and local spending, and improve the lives of people with mental disorders and their families.

Throughout the criminal justice system, people with mental disorders are overrepresented—in contact with law enforcement, in the courts, in jails and prisons, and in parole and probation caseloads across the country. According to a U.S. Department of Justice report, approximately 45 percent of federal inmates, 56 percent of state inmates, and 64 percent of jail inmates displayed symptoms of a mental health condition.

While most people with mental disorders are not violent and most violence in this country is not committed by people with mental disorders, there is an urgent need to consider approaches to mitigate the risk for violence among this population. Leaders in law enforcement, courts, corrections, and the mental health community understand the importance of working together to develop solutions that address the behavioral health needs of individuals prior to their entry to the criminal justice system.

We can all agree that the mental health system in this country is failing the American people.

Congress can take a leadership role to address this challenge by continuing its bipartisan support for this funding to bring together mental health providers, criminal justice agencies, consumers and family members to better identify and serve the needs of persons with mental health conditions and in order to reduce recidivism and long-term incarceration costs. MIOTCRA supports innovative programs that bring together mental health and criminal justice agencies to address the unique needs of persons with mental health conditions, including:

Specialized Law Enforcement-Based Response Programs

- Nationwide, law enforcement agencies in rapidly increasing numbers have embraced specialized policing responses (SPRs) for people with mental disorders. These efforts, which prioritize treatment over incarceration when appropriate, are planned and implemented in partnership with community service providers and citizens. The two most prevalent SPR approaches are crisis intervention teams (CITs), which give law enforcement officers the resources and training they need to identify and respond to mental health crises, and police-mental

health co-responder teams. These programs are effective ways to create, promote and sustain safety in communities.

- Houston's CIT program is the largest CIT program in the country. The program is driven by law enforcement, with assistance from mental health professionals, consumers, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). They use a hybrid approach for selecting which officers will be trained. Houston also runs other SPRs: the Crisis Intervention Response Team Program, a co-responder program in which a CIT officer partners with a licensed mental health professional to respond to calls and conduct proactive and follow-up investigations; the Chronic Consumer Stabilization Initiative, designed to divert people from jail when appropriate and help stabilize consumers by addressing their basic needs; and the Homeless Outreach Team that works in collaboration with a number of organizations that provide housing and other services to the homeless population, by helping them access services which they would not have been able to do on their own.
- The University of Florida Police Department (UFPD) is a campus law enforcement agency that has incorporated responses to those in mental health crisis into its in-service training programs for all sworn staff. They operate a comprehensive collaboration among many critical campus entities as well as city and county law enforcement agencies. UFPD formalized the use of on-call crisis intervention consultants when responding to those in mental distress who reside in on-campus housing facilities. UFPD also operates a crisis response team comprised of the university's mental health counselors, administrators, campus ministry representatives, and other administrative staff who respond to incident locations on campus and assist officers by providing on-site counseling and administrative needs coordination.

Mental Health Courts and Other Court-Based Initiatives

- Mental health courts in the United States have grown to over 300 today, up from four in 1997, with programs found in almost every state. As judges, county and state leaders, and advocates continue to call for the establishment or expansion of mental health courts in their jurisdictions, demand has steadily grown for information on designing, implementing, and revising mental health courts to achieve desired public safety and public health outcomes.
- Outagamie County, WI officials developed a post-adjudication, recovery-oriented mental health court program that explores alternatives to jail and connects individuals to community resources. Since accepting participants into the program in July 2012, the program has refined its target population to target individuals with a high risk of committing new offenses or violating terms of supervision and have adopted a treatment modality to reduce their likelihood of recidivating. The program has also worked to establish very strong connections to key community partners, including the local chapter of the NAMI.
- The first of its kind in the country, Philadelphia's Project Dawn Court is a problem-solving court targeting women with repeat prostitution offenses. A project of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities Services, the court offers treatment and recovery services, GED preparation, parenting classes, job training, and other services. The program aims to help women with co-occurring substance use and mental disorders exit prostitution and lead meaningful lives and to reduce incarceration costs for taxpayers.

Jail-Based Programs

- Correctional agencies and mental health organizations are collaborating to improve the delivery of treatment services to individuals who are incarcerated in prisons and jails. Providing quality care pre-release and connecting individuals to appropriate services post-release promotes both public safety and public health outcomes.
- The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene applied MIOTCRA funds to enhance services and treatment at three critical points—in-jail treatment, in-jail court advocacy, and post-release follow up—for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. With the goals of increasing safety and reducing recidivism, the program takes a comprehensive, collaborative approach to supporting the individuals' needs in jail and in the community.

Programs for Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System

- Interested in supporting positive outcomes for youth and preventing future involvement in the criminal justice system, communities are providing treatment and services to address mental disorders, substance abuse, problem behaviors, or risk factors in youth who are involved or at risk for involvement in the justice system.
- Maryland officials formed a collaborative to improve care for justice-involved youth who have mental disorders or CODs and are returning to their communities from residential placements. To inform its initiatives, the collaborative hosted forums with youth and their families, examined local data, and reviewed evidence-based and best practices.

MIOTCRA was enacted in 2004 and reauthorized in 2008, both times with broad bipartisan support. A reauthorization bill that was introduced in the last Congress had 92 cosponsors from both chambers and both sides of the aisle, and that bill has been endorsed by more than 200 leading law enforcement, mental health, and criminal justice organizations from across the country.

To date, MIOTCRA appropriations have funded 115 mental health courts and other court-based initiatives, supported 84 local police and county sheriff departments, and provided a total of 319 grants to 49 states, plus the District of Columbia, Guam, and American Samoa.

With the responsibility of treating people with mental disorders often falling on an already strained criminal justice system, it is clear that we need to redirect resources from containment to treatment. MIOTCRA has helped law enforcement officers, judges, corrections officers, and mental health professionals develop more compassionate and cost-effective approaches to incarceration. We appreciate your subcommittee's continued support for this important program in the FY16 CJS bill.

Sincerely,



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Police Officers Labor Council
of Michigan

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director and
General Counsel

March 13, 2015

The Honorable Steve Stivers
United States House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stivers:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our full support for the Responsible Additions and Increases to Sustain Employee (RAISE) Health Benefits Act of 2015 (H.R. 1185).

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.

Law enforcement officers across the United States rely on Flexible Spending Arrangements (FSAs) to pay for healthcare services and items that are not covered by insurance. Officers have been negatively impacted by guidelines set forth in the Affordable Care Act, which decreased the amount an officer could contribute to an FSA from \$5,000 per year to \$2,500 per year. Even more, these accounts' end-of-year balances do not roll over from year to year, and the remaining funds are forfeited.

The RAISE Act solves these issues by canceling the "use-it-or-lose-it" rule for all FSAs, allowing families to build balances over several years. The bill also doubles the current FSA annual contribution cap to \$5,000 per year and allows families with more than two dependents to save an additional \$500 a year for each additional dependent.

In today's economic climate, it is important to maximize personal savings, especially in regard to an officer's annual healthcare expenses. The RAISE Act will ensure that officers can build savings needed to address their families' medical costs.

NAPO stands ready to support any efforts necessary to pass this important legislation. If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director



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Associations of Texas

RICHARD WEILER
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Police Officers Labor Council
of Michigan

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director and
General Counsel

March 12, 2015

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
United States House of Representatives
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thornberry:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our full support for the Synthetic Abuse and Labeling of Toxic Substances (SALTS) Act of 2015 (H.R. 1183).

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.

The SALTS Act will address the growing problems associated with synthetic drugs. While taking these drugs, individuals can experience elevated heart rates and blood pressure, hallucinations, seizures, and extreme agitation. There have been reports from states around the country of people acting violently while under the influence of these drugs, leading to deaths or injuries to themselves and others.

By making it easier to prove that synthetic drugs are intended for human consumption, this legislation will help law enforcement in their efforts to get these drugs off the streets and out of stores.

NAPO stands ready to support any efforts necessary to pass this important legislation. If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director



**Come Join Us
Pray for Those in Law Enforcement
and Fire Safety**

Twenty-First Annual

Blue Mass

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen
Supporting Those Who Serve

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

at 12:10 p.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
10th & G Streets, Northwest
Washington, D.C.

All are welcome to attend

For more information,
call (202) 347-2713



March 9, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Reid:

We are deeply concerned about efforts to portray automated license plate recognition (ALPR) technology as a national real-time tracking capability for law enforcement. The fact is that this technology and the data it generates is not used to track people in real time. ALPR is used every day to generate investigative leads that help law enforcement solve murders, rapes, and serial property crimes, recover abducted children, detect drug and human trafficking rings, find stolen vehicles, apprehend violent criminal alien fugitives, and support terrorism investigations.

There is a misconception of continuous government tracking of individuals using ALPR information. This has led to attempts to curtail law enforcement's use of the technology without a proper and fair effort to truly understand the anonymous nature of the data, how it is used, and how it is protected.

We are seeing harmful proposals – appropriations amendments and legislation – to restrict or completely ban law enforcement's use of ALPR technology and data without any effort to truly understand the issue. Yet, any review would make clear that the value of this technology is beyond question, and that protections against mis-use of the data by law enforcement are already in place. That is one of the reasons why critics are hard-pressed to identify any actual instances of mis-use.

If legislative efforts to curtail ALPR use are successful, federal, state, and local law enforcement's ability to investigate crimes will be significantly impacted given the extensive use of the technology today.

We call on Congress to foster a reasonable and transparent discussion about ALPR. We believe strong measures can be taken to ensure citizens' privacy while enabling law enforcement investigators to take advantage of the technology. Strict data access controls, mandatory auditing of all use of ALPR systems, and regular reporting on the use of the technology and data prevent misuse of the capability while enabling law enforcement to make productive use of it. Adoption and enforcement of strong policies on the use of ALPR and other technologies by individual law enforcement agencies would also help.

We strongly urge members of the House and Senate to understand and recognize the substantial daily benefits of this technology to protect the public and investigate dangerous criminals. We urge opposition to any bill or amendment that would restrict the use of ALPR without full consideration of the issue.

Sincerely,



J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police, Montgomery County Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Police Association



Chief Richard Beary
President, International Association of Chiefs of Police



Mike Sena
Director, Northern California Regional Intelligence Center
President, National Fusion Center Association



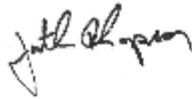
Ronald C. Sloan
Director, Colorado Bureau of Investigation
President, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies



Sheriff Donny Youngblood
President, Major County Sheriffs' Association



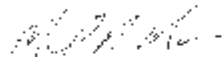
Bob Bushman
President, National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition



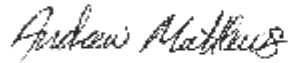
Jonathan Thompson
Executive Director, National Sheriffs' Association



William Johnson
Executive Director, National Association of Police Organizations



Mike Moore
President, National District Attorneys Association



Andrews Matthews
Chairman, National Troopers Coalition

Cc: House Judiciary Committee
Senate Judiciary Committee
House Committee on Homeland Security
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
House Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works