



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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January 13, 2015

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express full support for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program Reauthorization Act (S.125).

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.

This legislation would reauthorize the highly successful BVP Grant Program and ensure that all of America's law enforcement officers are provided with the life-saving protection they need.

The BVP Grant Program is a critical resource for state and local jurisdictions. This program has issued more than one million lifesaving vests to 13,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the country since it was established in 1999. 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. 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.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives each and every day to keep our communities safe. These brave men and women must be protected with the proper equipment.

NAPO stands ready to support any efforts necessary to pass this important bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson  
Executive Director