



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

September 20, 2021

MICHAEL McHALE
President
Florida Police Benevolent
Association

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: NAPO Opposition Amendment #534 to H.R. 4350

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the nation, I am writing to advise you of our opposition to Amendment #534 to H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal 2022, offered by Representative Hank Johnson.

Programs like the Department of Defense's 1033 Program 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 not only in protecting communities against violent criminals, but also in responding to natural disasters, which are unfortunately increasing in frequency.

NAPO is extremely concerned that the legitimate and well-demonstrated needs of officers are being overlooked due to the optics of law enforcement agencies obtaining this equipment from the Department of Defense. Law enforcement agencies should not be required to undergo the cumbersome and impractical process proposed by this Amendment to obtain and use equipment to protect officers and our communities. This gear, which has been repurposed for public safety use, fulfills legitimate police needs and the lack of such gear can have life-threatening consequences for officers and the communities they serve.

Given that state and local law enforcement are our nation's first responders to incidents from foreign and domestic terrorism to active shooter situations to flood rescues, Congress should be ensuring law enforcement agencies are able to acquire such equipment for the protection of their communities, not limiting it.

Restricting access to this equipment will endanger the lives of police officers and the civilians they are sworn to protect. NAPO urges you to strongly consider our concerns and oppose Representative Johnson's Amendment #534 to H.R. 4350. 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

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