



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

317 South Patrick Street. ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501
(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 684-0515
www.napo.org ~ Email: info@napo.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

July 13, 2021

MICHAEL McHALE

President

Florida Police Benevolent
Association

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN A. FLYNN

Vice President

Patrolmen's Benevolent
Association of New York City

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

TODD HARRISON

Recording Secretary

Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to thank you for your consistent leadership in supporting federal assistance to state and local law enforcement and criminal justice programs, particularly the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program, the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program. As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year 2022 spending bills, we respectfully request that any provisions that would hamper a state or local government or law enforcement agency from accessing these vital grant programs not be included.

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN

Treasurer

Massachusetts Coalition
of Police

MARC KOVAR

Sergeant-at-Arms

New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association

The House FY22 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill, H.R. 4505, illustrates support for Department of Justice state and local law enforcement assistance programs. It recognizes that these programs provide invaluable resources, training, and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies, keeping our communities safe. However, we have serious concerns with provisions within H.R. 4505 that attempt to pursue the goals of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 1280) and attach strings to these programs, particularly the Byrne JAG Program and the COPS Program.

CRAIG D. LALLY

Executive Secretary

Los Angeles Police
Protective League

MARK YOUNG

Vice President,

Associate Members

Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association

The most concerning are the requirements that state and local law enforcement agencies must begin or have completed an accreditation process and must be certified by the Attorney General to have met certain standards laid out in the legislation to receive FY 2022 state and local law enforcement assistance grants. These provisions have the potential to jeopardize public safety by withholding much needed grant funds from states and localities as there is no reasonable way for many of these requirements to be completed by the Fiscal 2022 grant cycle. This effectively would "defund" many law enforcement agencies and negatively impact public safety at a time when violent crime rates are skyrocketing in cities and communities across the country.

JAMES PALMER

Parliamentarian

Wisconsin Professional Police
Association

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE

Executive Director and

General Counsel

Further, Congress has yet to unify around police reform policies and good-faith negotiations are still on-going. Including the contentious requirements and provisions of H.R. 1280, which has not passed the Senate, could work to undermine the bipartisan discussions on reform.

We strongly urge you to leave these controversial provisions out of the final Fiscal 2022 CJS appropriations bill. NAPO believes that such policies should not be forced through as part of the appropriations process.

Again, we thank you for your work and leadership on these important issues. Please contact me at (703) 549-0775 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

William J. Johnson, Esq.
Executive Director