



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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**General Counsel**

May 28, 2015

The Honorable Gary Peters  
United States Senate  
SRC-2 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Deutch  
United States House of Representatives  
2447 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Peters and Congressman Deutch:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our opposition to the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2015 (S. 1119 & H.R. 2330).

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.

NAPO agrees with the legislation's underlying intent to examine our nation's criminal justice system. However, NAPO is concerned that rank-and-file officers are not specifically identified to be appointed to the Commission. It is essential that these officers be represented by a secured seat on the Commission.

A comprehensive examination of the state of law enforcement and criminal justice in the United States will be incomplete and inaccurate if it fails to include the rank-and-file perspective. Failing to secure a seat for rank-and-file law enforcement officers, the very people who know the most, suffer the most, and have the most to gain from recommendations of a National Criminal Justice Commission, will lead to inaccurate findings and poor recommendations. Moreover, additional details regarding Commission membership must be specifically outlined in the bill.

A secondary concern with the legislation is the restrictive timeframe within which the Commission is to complete its findings. The 18-month timeframe is not sufficient to conduct a comprehensive examination of criminal justice issues impacting our nation, nor is it sufficient time to develop appropriate recommendations.

NAPO's members continue to work tirelessly to build relationships with the communities they serve and develop strategies to improve policing across the country. NAPO is dedicated to pursuing efforts to advance and improve our criminal justice system, but this legislation will fall short of its objectives if it fails to include the

rank-and-file perspective. Additionally, it is not feasible to develop meaningful recommendations during the specified timeframe.

NAPO urges you to strongly consider our concerns with this legislation. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson  
Executive Director