

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS October 11, 2017

MICHAEL McHALE President Florida Police Benevolent Association

JOHN A. FLYNN Vice President Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of New York City

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> SCOTT HOVSEPIAN Treasurer Massachusetts Coalition of Police

Sergeant-at-Arms New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association

> CRAIG D. LALLY Executive Secretary Los Angeles Police Protective League

MARK YOUNG Vice President, **Associate Members Detroit Police Lieutenants &** Sergeants Association

JAMES PALMER Parliamentarian Wisconsin Professional Police Association

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE Executive Director and **General Counsel** 

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte Chairman Committee on the Judiciary United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr. **Ranking Member** Committee on the Judiciary United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 2228, the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act, and ask that you support the bill, without amendment, when the Committee considers it on October 12.

MARC KOVAR NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's rank-and-file 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.

> State and local law enforcement officers are our nation's first responders. They respond to our country's greatest tragedies as well as violent and abhorrent crimes that unfortunately occur with some frequency in our neighborhoods. They have seen and experienced horrors that they cannot forget, yet they still put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve our communities. It is time that we recognize the stress and strain of the job and give officers the resources they need to address their emotional and mental wellbeing.

> The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act is an important first step in ensuring officers across the country have access to the best mental health services available and feel supported in using those services.

> NAPO urges you to approve H.R. 2228 without further amendment and show your support for officers who give up so much to protect and serve our communities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson **Executive Director** 

Cc: Members, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. House of Representatives