



October 31, 2024

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chair
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers
Chair
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Reed and Rogers and Ranking Members Wicker and Smith:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for critical, bipartisan provisions contained in S. Amdt. 3290 to S. 4638 and H.R. 8070, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025: Section 1753 of H.R. 8070, State and local law enforcement access to lifesaving Federal equipment, Subtitle J of S. Amdt. 3290, Law Enforcement and Victim Support Act, and Section 6054 of S. Amdt. 3290, Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024. These bipartisan provisions are legislative priorities for the federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and agencies we represent, and we urge you to maintain their inclusion in the final, negotiated Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA.

Section 1753 of H.R. 8070, State and local law enforcement access to lifesaving Federal equipment, would restore state and local law enforcement's unfettered access to surplus military equipment through the Department of Defense's 1033 Program and Department of Homeland Security and Justice Department grant programs. As we have witnessed in the response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton, this equipment has proven vital to first responders in their search and rescue operations. Section 1753 responds to the legitimate and well-demonstrated needs of our nation's first responders as they work to serve and protect our communities.

Subtitle J of S. Amdt. 3290 to S. 4638, Law Enforcement and Victim Support Act, is comprised of nine bills that passed unanimously out of the Senate, including several priority bills for law enforcement: the Fighting PTSD Act, the American Law Enforcement SAVER Act, Project Safe Neighborhoods Reauthorization Act, the Strong Communities Act, and Project Safe Childhood

Act. These bills would help protect the mental health and physical wellbeing of law enforcement officers, provide resources to address the recruitment crisis the profession is facing, and provide departments tools to fight violent crime and protect our innocent children from exploitation.

Section 6054 of S. Amdt. 3290, Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024, reauthorizes and expands key grant programs that provide vital services, supports, and resources for people reentering their communities after incarceration, including career training, addiction services, and transitional housing supports.

Finally, we once again urge you to include the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act as part of the final FY 2025 NDAA. This important legislation would recognize carcinogen-related cancers as line of duty injuries under the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officer's Benefits (PSOB) Program. As first responders continue their rescue and recovery efforts in response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton, they are being exposed to an untold number of carcinogens that have leached into the flood waters. We cannot leave them behind as we look to make whole the victims of these natural disasters. Our first responders deserve to know that if they develop a carcinogen-related cancer due to the performance of their duties, their families will be taken care of.

Every one of these provisions would provide essential support and resources for federal, state, and local law enforcement, who play a significant role in our nation's security, and give them the tools to effectively protect our communities. We urge you to support these provisions and their inclusion in the final Fiscal 2025 NDAA.

Sincerely,

Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National Narcotics' Officers Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)
Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD

Cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chair, Judiciary Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chair, Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senate