



# 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](http://www.napo.org) ~ Email: [info@napo.org](mailto:info@napo.org)

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

MICHAEL McHALE  
President  
Florida Police Benevolent  
Association

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

TODD HARRISON  
Recording Secretary  
Combined Law Enforcement  
Association of Texas

SEAN M. SMOOT  
Treasurer  
Police Benevolent & Protective  
Association of Illinois

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

CRAIG D. LALLY  
Executive Secretary  
Los Angeles Police  
Protective League

JAMES PALMER  
Parliamentarian  
Wisconsin Professional Police  
Association

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE  
Executive Director and  
General Counsel

February 3, 2017

The Honorable Steve King  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2210 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman King:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our strong opposition to the National Right to Work Act (H.R. 785).

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 unions 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.

Bargaining collectively for wages, hours and safe working conditions is a basic American right, a right that Congress voted to protect when it passed the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). In passing the NLRA, Congress stated that protecting workers' right to unionize and bargain collectively safeguards and promotes the flow of commerce by removing obstructions caused by industrial strife and unrest and by promoting employees' full freedom to collectively bargain the terms and conditions of their employment. The findings of Congress in passing the NLRA still stand true today.

Further, in keeping with a fundamental principle of the United States—state's rights—the NLRA does not mandate fair-share bargaining systems on states. It only provides the protection of employees' basic right to unionize and leaves it to the states to decide what collective bargaining systems works best for its industries and workers. 27 states have implemented right-to-work laws, while the remaining states have determined that union security is important to their economies and populations. The fact that states use different systems—from fair-share to right-to-work structures—shows that states need leeway to take into account their distinctive geographies, populations, economies and other unique characteristics. Congress must resist this type of federal overreach and respect the important interests states have in maintaining their chosen labor relations systems.

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,

William J. Johnson, CAE  
Executive Director