



The Washington Report

The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations

Representing America's Finest

May 4, 2015

NAPO Continues to Engage Administration on Behalf of Members

On April 29, 2015, NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson, participated in a teleconference with the Department of Justice's Acting Attorney General (AAG) for the Civil Rights Division, Vanita Gupta, and the Director of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office, Ron Davis, to discuss recent events in Baltimore. Later that week, Johnson participated in a White House teleconference, which included an update on the situation in Baltimore. The White House conference call included Senior Advisor to the President, Valerie Jarrett, AAG Vanita Gupta, and Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity, and Domestic Policy, Roy Austin.

Following these engagements, NAPO published the attached open letter to reinforce our commitment to officers across the country, who put their lives on the line each and every to protect our communities. As you will read in the letter, we continue to urge political leaders across the nation to support our officers during these difficult times, as our officers continue to work to strengthen relationships with the communities they serve.

NAPO will continue to expend every available effort to ensure our officers have the support that they need, as they continue to work to protect our nation. We will continue to engage the Administration and members of Congress to ensure our officers' voices are heard loud and clear, and they receive the protection they need during this difficult time.

If you have any questions about our efforts, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO in the News

NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson, was interviewed by the [Boston Herald](#) last week regarding Loretta Lynch's first week as Attorney General and her response to recent events in Baltimore.

The article highlights that "civil rights organizations are urging Lynch, who has already sent DOJ officials to Baltimore to meet with residents and community leaders, to show up in person in the weeks ahead. But Lynch must also reach out to the rank-and-file officers who patrol those communities and assure them that she is on their side, too."

Johnson explained: "It's a great opportunity...She can turn the page in the relationship that exists between local law enforcement and the federal DOJ."

The full article is available at the following site:

http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/columnists/kimberly_atkins/2015/04/atkins_ag_loretta_lynch_s_first_week_is_tension.

Johnson was also quoted in a *McClathy DC* article regarding the announcement that six police officers would face criminal charges in the death of Freddie Gray.

In the article, Johnson explained that “officers are not frequently charged criminally involving the death of a subject not because officers aren’t scrutinized, but because usually the officers acted in accordance with the law.”

In response to Baltimore State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby’s announcement of charges against the officers, Johnson noted: “I don’t know how much of it is, frankly, a response to political pressure. I hope none of it...But I think it’s naive to think that the elected state’s attorney isn’t sensitive to what’s going on politically.”

Johnson furthered:

“The politicization of police use-of-force cases is a growing concern among law enforcement officers Nationally...‘It seems that so many cities across the country are being subjected to these violent mobs that are protesting and it can’t help but agitate for political attacks on police and sometimes physical attacks on police.’”

“Johnson stressed that although the allegations are serious, they still are just allegations. ‘The officers, just like anybody else, are entitled to the presumption of innocence, just like anyone else.’”

The full article is available at the following site: <http://www.mcclathydc.com/2015/05/01/265230/police-face-criminal-charges-in.html#storylink=cpy>.

NAPO will continue to ensure or members’ voices are heard loud and clear on the Hill, with the Administration, and in the media. If you have any questions about the publications cited above, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO VICTORY!!!

Senate Passes

Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act

On April 30, 2015, the Senate passed the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act. NAPO has expended all available efforts to garner support for this critical piece of legislation, and we are thrilled to report this victory to our members.

The Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act will assist with the establishment of a nationwide Blue Alert system to apprehend violent criminals who have injured or killed police officers or who have made an imminent or credible threat to cause serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer. This bill is named in honor of two New York City Police Detectives, and NAPO members, who were assassinated while sitting in their police patrol car in December 2014. Their killer posted threats to law enforcement on social media before the attack. Implementing a nationwide Blue Alert system will help to ensure that information on credible threats, like those posted by the individual who killed Detectives Ramos and Liu, is widely disseminated so that officers have advanced warning, and can apprehend the criminal before he or she can do more harm.

NAPO has worked closely with the Blue Alert bill’s sponsors, **Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD)** and **Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**, to garner support for this legislation. NAPO’s Executive Director, Bill Johnson, participated in a press conference with Senator Cardin and the House bill’s sponsors, **Congressmen Dave Reichert (R-WA)** and **Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)**, on March 24, 2015, to bring attention to the importance of this legislation.

In addition to the press conference, NAPO has spent countless hours engaging staffers for key members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to garner support for this bill. We are ecstatic that our efforts were successful, and we're looking forward to working with you to ensure this bill becomes law.

If you have any questions about the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

NAPO VICTORY!!!

Senate Judiciary Committee Passes Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act

On April 30, 2015, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act. This legislation, sponsored by **Senator Al Franken (D-MN)** and **Congressman Doug Collins (R-GA)**, would improve outcomes for the criminal justice system, the mental health system, and for those with mental health conditions by doing the following, among other things:

- Extending the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), and continuing support for mental health courts and crisis intervention teams;
- Authorizing investments in veterans treatment courts, which serve arrested veterans who suffer from PTSD, substance addiction, and other mental health conditions;
- Supporting state and local efforts to identify people with mental health conditions at each point in the criminal justice system in order to appropriately direct them to mental health services;
- Increasing focus on corrections-based programs, such as transitional services that reduce recidivism rates and screening practices that identify inmates with mental health conditions;
- Supporting the development of curricula for police academies and orientations; and
- Developing programs to train federal law enforcement officers in how to respond appropriately to incidents involving a person with a mental health condition.

Last week, NAPO contacted key members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to express our support for the bill, and urge that the Committee vote to advance the legislation.

NAPO is thrilled to share the news of this victory with our members, and we look forward to working with Senator Franken, Congressman Collins, and other stakeholders to pass the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act during this Congress.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Source:

"Collins Introduce Bipartisan Measure to Combat Mental Health Crisis in Criminal Justice System." *Al Franken-Senator for Minnesota*. N.p., 16 Apr. 2015. Web. 16 Apr. 2015.

NAPO Submits Comments to IRS Regarding Cadillac Tax

Last week, NAPO submitted the attached comments to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in response to Notice 2015-16, regarding the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage under Section 49801 of the Internal Revenue Code.

NAPO is very concerned that beginning in 2018, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, (“Obamacare”), imposes a new 40% annual excise tax on taxpayers who are covered by high cost health insurance plans, so-called “Cadillac” health insurance plans. This tax would apply to plans with premiums at or above \$10,200 for an individual or \$27,500 for a family, including worker and employer contributions to flexible spending or healthcare savings accounts.

Although higher thresholds are set for workers in high risk professions, such as public safety officers (\$11,850 for an individual and \$30,950 for a family), to qualify for the higher threshold amounts, the majority of members in the healthcare plan must work in high risk professions. Many public safety officers would not qualify for the higher threshold amounts, as they participate in general healthcare plans where the majority of participants do not work in high risk professions.

After completing a survey, NAPO confirmed that officers and their families across the country will be negatively impacted by the “Cadillac” health insurance plan tax. To illustrate this point, officers in our member groups, including the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association, Police Conference of New York State, Boston Police Patrolmen’s Association, Dade County (Miami), Florida Police Benevolent Association, and the Postal Police Officers’ Association will be negatively impacted by the “Cadillac” health insurance plan tax. Members of the Sarasota Police Department (Florida), Waltham Police Department (Massachusetts), and Southold Town Police Department (New York) will also be negatively impacted by the tax. These public safety officers would not qualify for the higher threshold amounts, as they participate in health insurance plans where the majority of participants do not work in high risk professions. Even more, this list represents only a fraction of the officers who will be negatively impacted by the “Cadillac” health insurance plan tax.

Setting higher thresholds for public safety officers thus will not adequately protect officers from the tax burden, as thousands of officers participate in plans that include a majority of employees who do not work in high risk professions. Section 49801 of the Internal Revenue Code must be modified to ensure that all public safety officers are eligible for the higher threshold amounts, regardless of the composition of the officer’s healthcare plan. In addition, the Service’s guidance and interpretation of Section 49801 should reflect the clear intent of Congress that public safety officers should generally be excluded from the effects of this new tax, and that the higher dollar thresholds should be given effect to shield officers and their families, regardless of what other workers also participate in their applicable health care plans.

Such a determination would be consistent with the unquestioned Congressional intent that public safety officers be protected from the impact of this new tax.

NAPO is most grateful to all of our members who provided feedback on how the “Cadillac” tax will affect their groups. As you will read, it greatly strengthened our argument.

If you have any questions about our efforts to ensure that our members are not negatively impacted by the “Cadillac” tax, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO Supports the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act

Last week, NAPO pledged our support for the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act, which was introduced by **Congressman Joe Courtney (D-CT)** on April 28, 2015. This legislation would repeal the excise tax on high-cost health insurance plans scheduled to go into effect in 2018. The excise tax was established in a later version of the Affordable Care Act, (“Obamacare”), but its scheduled implementation was delayed five years by an effort led by Courtney with 191 House colleagues in 2010. (For additional information on the “Cadillac” tax, please see the above article).

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NAPO will continue to work with members of Congress to repeal the “Cadillac” tax, and ensure public safety officers and their families are not unduly burdened.

If you have any questions about this bill, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Source:

"Congressman Joe Courtney : Press Releases : Courtney Announces New Legislation to Repeal Excise Tax, Protect Workers' Health Benefits."Congressman Joe Courtney : Press Releases : Courtney Announces New Legislation to Repeal Excise Tax, Protect Workers' Health Benefits. N.p., 28 May 2015. Web. 03 May 2015.

NAPO Submits Comments to U.S. Sentencing Commission Regarding Firearm Enhancement Sentencing Guidelines

Last week, NAPO sent the attached letter to the Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission to urge that the Commission review the application of “firearm enhancement” sentencing guidelines as they relate to law enforcement officers.

Title 18, United States Code, Section 924 provides in relevant part:

“[A]ny person who, during and in relation to any crime of violence ... for which the person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, uses or carries a firearm, or who, in furtherance of any such crime, possesses a firearm, shall, in addition to the punishment provided for such crime of violence . . .—
(i) be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years; (ii) if the firearm is brandished, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 7 years; and (iii) if the firearm is discharged, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 10 years.”

The aforementioned penalties that exist for using or carrying a firearm in relation to a criminal action are not appropriate for law enforcement officers. The application of “firearm enhancement” sentencing guidelines must be clarified to ensure that these enhancements do not automatically apply when a law enforcement officer is prosecuted, as law enforcement officers are required to carry a weapon as part of their official duties.

Officers are required to carry a duty weapon to protect the communities in which they serve. It is unjust for that officer to receive an enhanced sentence due to compliance with departmental policies.

NAPO feels strongly that the application of “firearm enhancement” sentencing guidelines must be reviewed and modified to ensure that law enforcement officers are not subject to harsher penalties for carrying an official duty weapon.

If you have any questions about NAPO’s request to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO Meetings on Capitol Hill

On April 29, 2015, NAPO met with senior staffers for the following members of the House Ways and Means Committee: **Congressman Jim McDermott (D-WA)**, **Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA)**, and **Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA)**. NAPO used the meetings to provide information on the *Don’t Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act*. This legislation clarifies that both federal and state death benefits for the survivors of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty should be treated the same and not be subjected to federal income tax. Survivor

benefits for federal law enforcement officers are currently not subject to federal income tax, but there is some ambiguity about the treatment of these benefits for similar state-based programs.

On February 11, 2015, the Senate Finance Committee passed the *Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Act* by voice vote. The House companion bill has been assigned to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

NAPO also discussed other priorities during these meetings, including the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, and the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act.

The staffers were receptive to our proposals. NAPO will continue to work with fellow stakeholders to garner support for these important pieces of legislation. If you have any questions about our efforts, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act

On April 22, 2015, the Senate unanimously approved the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (99-0). This package, which includes nearly all of the trafficking bills passed overwhelmingly by the House in January 2015, would provide much needed services to domestic victims and help ensure that child victims ensnared in the sex trade are no longer arrested and treated as criminals.

This legislation would boost support for and protection of victims of human trafficking by increasing law enforcement resources, enhancing victims' services, and increasing penalties in an effort to combat child sex trafficking, child pornography, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

NAPO expended all available efforts to ensure this legislation passed the Senate, and we continue to work with staffers for the legislation's Senate and House sponsors, **Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)** and **Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX)**, to discuss strategies to ensure this bill passes the House. Additionally, last week, NAPO joined fellow stakeholders on a letter to **Speaker John Boehner (R-OH)** and **Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)** to express our support for the bill and urge that the House take up and pass this legislation without delay. (An excerpt of this letter is attached to this report for your convenience and review).

NAPO will continue to work with other stakeholders to urge that the House pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act as soon as possible. We will keep our members updated on the status of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

NAPO Congratulates TOP COPS Winners & Honorable Mention Recipients

Each year since 1994, NAPO has presented the TOP COPS Awards® Ceremony. The purpose of the TOP COPS Awards® is to educate the American public about our nation's heroes and to pay tribute to law enforcement officers in federal, state, county, tribal and local agencies from across the country for actions above and beyond the call of duty during the preceding year. Our TOP COPS® are nominated by fellow officers. An independent Awards Selection Committee comprised of national law enforcement representatives select, from hundreds of nominations, one TOP COP® case from each of the 50 States and U.S. territories. Officers from the top ten cases are selected as our TOP COPS Award® Winners. In each remaining state, one case has been selected for which the officer(s) will receive an Honorable Mention award.

NAPO is looking forward to recognizing these courageous men and women during our TOP COPS Awards® ceremony on May 12, 2015. Our full list of winners is attached to this report.

If you have any questions about the TOP COPS Awards®, please contact Elizabeth Loranger at: eloranger@napo.org.

BJA Releases FY 2015 Grant Solicitation for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies

On May 1, 2015, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) released an FY 2015 grant solicitation for state and local law enforcement agencies for the Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Pilot Implementation Program.

The BWC solicitation will provide fiscal support to help law enforcement agencies develop, implement, and evaluate body-worn camera programs across the United States. BJA expects to make up to 50 awards to law enforcement agencies, with about one-third of the grants directed toward agencies with less than 250 officers.

In addition to the 50 awards, \$2 million will go toward establishing a BWC Training and Technical Assistance Center, funded through a competitive process, focusing on agencies developing and enhancing their BWC programs. The Center will also provide national resources on BWC topics and address concerns related to the program.

BJA will also launch a BWC Implementation Toolkit in May, designed as an online resource for stakeholders. The toolkit will focus on implementation requirements, retention issues, policy concerns, interests of prosecutors, victim and privacy advocates' concerns, along with community engagement and funding considerations.

OJP's Bureau of Justice Statistics will receive \$1 million of the funds to collect data on body-worn camera usage through surveys of law enforcement agencies. BJS will also design instruments that can be used in future surveys of prosecutors and public defenders about the impact of body-worn cameras.

The solicitation is available at the following site: <https://www.bja.gov/Funding/15BWCsol.pdf>.

Source:

"Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program FY 2015 Competitive Grant Announcement." Bureau of Justice Assistance (2015): www.bja.gov. Bureau of Justice Assistance, 1 May 2015. Web. 1 May 2015.

Please monitor NAPO's website, www.napo.org, and Facebook page: National Association of Police Organizations, and follow us on Twitter at NAPOpolice for breaking news and updates.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM NAPO TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

On behalf of the more than 240,000 officers from every walk of life represented by the National Association of Police Organizations, and the millions of citizens whom we serve, we seek peace on our streets, we strive for justice, and we remember the individual men and women called to serve and protect. To the alarming number of elected officials who sometimes seem unable or unwilling to publicly support their police, we say: The time for standing by and offering weak platitudes about peaceful protest has passed.

In cities across our country, in Baltimore, in Washington, in New York, in Philadelphia, in Chicago, in Los Angeles, in Boston, and everywhere in between, American police officers are, quite literally, bleeding to death. In the entirely foreseeable fulfillment of well publicized threats, killers are stalking and attacking our officers. They are cloaking themselves in the rhetoric of protest and "justice". But their very public actions are those of violence and bloodshed. American officers are not just "putting their lives on the line," they are dying. These are no peaceful protests and they never were. Both "Burn this bitch down!" and "What do we want? Dead cops!," have proved to be open notices of exactly what these sociopaths were going to do.

These lawless mobs are reading the inaction of clueless mayors and pandering politicians as a tacit concession that their goals have merit. They hear civil rights "leaders" words of sympathy for violent protestors as conferring legitimacy upon their cause. This has allowed an atmosphere of hatred against police officers to grow, to fester and to finally burst forth in murderous gunfire, ambush attacks and vehicular run-downs of officers across our nation.

To the men and women out on the front lines, our brother and sister officers, please know that we unflinchingly support you, we care about what you are facing, we are outraged at the attacks and wounds you suffer, and the lack of backup from those officials who owe you so much. Know that we will never back down. We have your back in this fight. We will insist on the great truths of this noble profession, on the integrity, sacrifice, and raw courage it takes to do this job. And most of all, we will continue to stand up to anyone who seeks to tear down the legitimate rights of officers, whether in our nation's capital or anywhere else. The men and women who are quite literally bleeding for their communities don't just deserve the same constitutional and legal rights as every other American, they have EARNED them!

Respectfully, the men and women of the National Association of Police Organizations,



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

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Executive Secretary
Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas

RICHARD WEILER
Parliamentarian
Police Officers Labor Council
of Michigan

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
*Executive Director and
General Counsel*

April 17, 2015

CC:PA:LPD:PR (Notice 2015-16)
Room 5203
Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 7604
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044

Re: Notice 2015-16

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing in response to Notice 2015-16, regarding the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage under Section 49801 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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 is very concerned that beginning in 2018, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, (Public Law 111-148), imposes a new 40% annual excise tax on taxpayers who are covered by high cost health insurance plans, so-called "Cadillac" health insurance plans. This tax would apply to plans with premiums at or above \$10,200 for an individual or \$27,500 for a family, including worker and employer contributions to flexible spending or healthcare savings accounts.

Although higher thresholds are set for workers in high risk professions, such as public safety officers (\$11,850 for an individual and \$30,950 for a family), to qualify for the higher threshold amounts, the majority of members in the healthcare plan must work in high risk professions. Many public safety officers would not qualify for the higher threshold amounts, as they participate in general healthcare plans where the majority of participants do not work in high risk professions.

After completing a survey, NAPO confirmed that officers and their families across the country will be negatively impacted by the "Cadillac" health insurance plan tax. To illustrate this point, officers in our member groups, including the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association, Police Conference of New York State, Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, Dade County (Miami), Florida Police Benevolent Association, and the Postal Police Officers' Association will be negatively impacted by the "Cadillac" health insurance plan tax. Members of the Sarasota Police

Department (Florida), Waltham Police Department (Massachusetts), and Southold Town Police Department (New York) will also be negatively impacted by the tax. These public safety officers would not qualify for the higher threshold amounts, as they participate in health insurance plans where the majority of participants do not work in high risk professions. Even more, the aforementioned groups represent thousands of police officers across the nation, but only a fraction of the public safety officers who will be negatively impacted by the "Cadillac" health insurance plan tax.

Setting higher thresholds for public safety officers thus will not adequately protect officers from the tax burden, as thousands of officers participate in plans that include a majority of employees who do not work in high risk professions. Section 49801 of the Internal Revenue Code must be modified to ensure that all public safety officers are eligible for the higher threshold amounts, regardless of the composition of the officer's healthcare plan. In addition, the Service's guidance and interpretation of Section 49801 should reflect the clear intent of Congress that public safety officers should generally be excluded from the effects of this new tax, and that the higher dollar thresholds should be given effect to shield officers and their families, regardless of what other workers also participate in their applicable health care plans.

Such a determination would be consistent with the unquestioned Congressional intent that public safety officers be protected from the impact of this new tax.

If NAPO can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,


William J. Johnson
Executive Director



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RICHARD WEILER
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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
*Executive Director and
General Counsel*

April 28, 2015

The Honorable Patti B. Saris
Chair
United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Suite 2-500
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

Dear Chair Saris:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to urge that the United States Sentencing Commission review the application of "firearm enhancement" sentencing guidelines as they relate to law enforcement officers.

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.

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"[A]ny person who, during and in relation to any crime of violence ... for which the person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, uses or carries a firearm, or who, in furtherance of any such crime, possesses a firearm, shall, in addition to the punishment provided for such crime of violence . . . (i) be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years; (ii) if the firearm is brandished, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 7 years; and (iii) if the firearm is discharged, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 10 years."

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Officers are required to carry a duty weapon to protect the communities in which they serve. It is unjust for that officer to receive an enhanced sentence due to compliance with departmental policies.

NAPO feels strongly that the application of "firearm enhancement" sentencing guidelines must be reviewed and modified to ensure that law enforcement officers are not subject to harsher penalties for carrying an official duty weapon.

We appreciate your consideration. If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,



William J. Johnson
Executive Director

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2015

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We are an alliance of organizations and individual advocates from across the United States dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable women and children. We write to express our support for the Senate anti-trafficking package, the *Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, as amended*, S. 178 (JVTA package) recently voted out of the Senate unanimously. This package, which includes nearly all of the trafficking bills passed overwhelmingly by the House in January, would provide much needed services to victims of human trafficking and help ensure that child victims ensnared in the sex trade are no longer arrested and treated as criminals.

According to the FBI, over 80 percent¹ of all confirmed sex trafficking cases in the U.S. involve U.S. citizens, yet across the country, victims still lack basic necessities. Simply stated, there are more animal shelters in our country than programs or beds for victims of trafficking. This critical legislation provides unprecedented support to victims, who for too long have endured arrest, imprisonment, and stigma for their victimization instead of support and services. The Senate package contains critical funding for housing and services – a crucial element the House companion lacks. Moreover, the legislation supports training for federal prosecutors and judges on the importance of requesting and ordering restitution, so that victims can receive the compensation they are rightly owed by law.

Every day in this country, thousands of women and children are bought and sold. The unfettered demand for sex has caused pimps and exploiters to resort to more extreme tactics in order to meet exploding demand. The JVTA package directs the Department of Justice to incorporate strategies for reducing demand into anti-trafficking training programs and sting operations, including Innocence Lost. Women and children, especially girls, are advertised online where buyers purchase them with ease and anonymity. This happens in every city, in every state. The JVTA package would help fight online exploitation and work to bring buyers of child sex to justice. It creates a new partnership with wounded warriors, training them to serve as online investigators of child pornography and exploitation.

Advocates know: this is the most comprehensive and thoughtful piece of anti-trafficking legislation in years. The JVTA package represents a tremendous bipartisan effort to provide necessary support and protections for our victims of human trafficking, and at long last ends the culture of impunity for those who purchase our most vulnerable for sex. But these victims have

¹ Banks, D. and Kyckelbah, T., *Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008-2010* (NCJ 233732), Bureau of Justice Statistics (2011) at <http://www.bis.gov/content/pub/press/cshiti0810ov.cfm>

waited too long. After several years of advocacy and over a month of delay on the Senate side, we are just one step away from providing this population with justice and healing.

As leaders in the anti-trafficking, anti-violence, faith-based, child welfare, law enforcement, and human rights movements, we urge the House to take up and pass this vital legislation without delay.

Sincerely,

- 1 Human Rights Project for Girls (Rights4Girls)
- 2 National Domestic Violence Hotline
- 3 Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)
- 4 Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)
- 5 ECPAT-USA
- 6 Girls Inc.
- 7 Shared Hope International
- 8 Equality Now
- 9 National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
- 10 National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
- 11 National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- 12 New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- 13 Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Services
- 14 Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- 15 Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
- 16 Florida Council Against Sexual Violence
- 17 New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
- 18 Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- 19 Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- 20 Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services
- 21 National Children's Alliance (NCA)
- 22 Jewish Women International (JWI)
- 23 Children's Advocacy Institute
- 24 National Association of Counsel for Children
- 25 Courtney's House, survivor-led service provider
- 26 PROTECT
- 27 First Focus Campaign for Children
- 28 Franciscan Action Network
- 29 Breaking Free, survivor-led service provider
- 30 The Organization for Prostitution Survivors
- 31 Religious Sisters of Charity
- 32 Sanctuary for Families
- 33 Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic



**NAPO SALUTES THE 2015
TOP COPS AWARDS® RECIPIENTS**

Phoenix Police Department
Officer Michael J. Lin

Los Angeles Police Department
Police Officer II April Lockhart
Police Officer II Alberto Ortiz

West Palm Beach Police Department
Officer Christopher Nebbeling

Chicago Police Department
Police Officer Joseph D. Fernandez
Police Officer Thomas R. Gorman
Police Officer Anthony F. Munizzi
Police Officer Brandon C. Murphy
Detective Christopher M. Ross
Captain Edward J. Kulbida

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
Patrol Officer Gregory D. Milburn

Boston Police Department
Police Officer Ryan J. Lenane
Police Officer William F. Traft
Sergeant Thomas J. Teahan

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Officer John J. Bethard
Officer Zackery Beal
Officer Brett A. Brosnahan
Officer David A. Corbin
Officer Ryan Fryman
Officer Timothy T. Gross
Officer Troy L. Nicol
Officer Gregory A. Stinnett
Sergeant Kurt McKenzie
Sergeant Christopher S. O'Brien

New York City Police Department
Police Officer Kenneth Healey
Police Officer Taylor R. Kraft
Police Officer Joseph Meeker
Police Officer Peter D. Rivera

Corpus Christi Police Department
Senior Officer Amador Gonzalez

Norfolk Police Department
Police Officer II Curtis L. Allison
Police Officer II Toofan C. Shahsiah

2015 TOP COP HONORABLE MENTION AWARD WINNERS

ALABAMA

Officer Robert F. Hubbard
Montgomery Police Department

DELAWARE

Detective David Ham
Detective Matthew Kucharski
Detective Matthew Rosaio
Sergeant Joseph F. Leary Jr.
Master Sergeant Thomas P. Looney
Wilmington Police Department
Senior Probation Officer Daniel Collins
Senior Probation Officer Joseph Scioli
Senior Probation Officer Kate Sweeney
Senior Probation Officer Bryan Vettori
Delaware Department of Correction

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

K-9 Officer Stephen Giannini
Officer Thomas Moore II
Officer Shannon C. Strange II
Metropolitan Police Department

FEDERAL

Detective Mario A. Muniz
New York City Police Department
Inspector Patrick Lin
Deputy U.S. Marshal Ryan Westfield
United States Marshal Service

HAWAII

Special Agent Kiyomi M. Griffey
Naval Intelligence Investigative Service

INTERNATIONAL

Special Agent Bradley J. McCollum
Naval Criminal Investigative Service

IOWA

Patrol Officer Jill Ohm
Sioux City Police Department

KENTUCKY

Detective Christopher L. Russell
Lexington Police Department

Maine

Detective Micah Perkins
Detective Todd M. Stetson
Maine State Police
Detective James Normile
Detective Luis P. Sanchez
New York City Police Department

MARYLAND

Trooper Joshua Kim
Maryland State Police

MICHIGAN

Officer Joel Dobis
Detroit City Police Department

NEW JERSEY

Officer Robert Albanowski
Officer Marlon Parrott
Trenton Police Department

NORTH CAROLINA

Lieutenant Alan Hedgepeth
Henderson Police Department
Resident Agent in Charge Timothy L. Sloan
Special Agent Timothy S. Graden
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

OHIO

Detective Alan Ternosky
Twinsburg Police Department

OREGON

Officer John M. Romero
Portland Police Bureau

PENNSYLVANIA

Officer Sarith Tohn
Philadelphia Police Department

TENNESSEE

Officer Thomas Turner
Officer ~~Richard~~ Derrick White
Knoxville Police Department

WASHINGTON

Detective Dustin Goudschaal
Vancouver Police Department

WISCONSIN

Sergeant David McClurg
Officer Carlin Becker
Officer Michele Walker
Madison Police Department

