



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS** June 29, 2020

**MICHAEL McHALE**

President  
Florida Police Benevolent  
Association

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**JOHN A. FLYNN**

Vice President  
Police Benevolent  
Association of New York City

Dear Senator:

**TODD HARRISON**

Recording Secretary  
Combined Law Enforcement  
Associations of Texas

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the nation, I am writing to advise you of our strong opposition to any amendments to S. 4049, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal 2021, that would restrict state and local law enforcement's access to surplus military equipment. Such efforts claim to stop the militarization of law enforcement but would only serve to restrict officers from accessing lifesaving gear they need to defend themselves and the civilians they are sworn to protect.

**SCOTT HOVSEPIAN**

Treasurer  
Massachusetts Coalition  
of Police

**MARC KOVAR**

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

Programs like the Department of Defense's 1033 Program and grant programs at the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security have been vital resources in allowing state and local law enforcement to acquire items used in search and rescue operations, disaster response, and active shooter situations that they otherwise would not be able to afford. This equipment has not led to the "militarization" of police, but rather has proven to be essential in protecting communities against violent criminals with increasing access to sophisticated weaponry, IEDs, and body armor.

**CRAIG D. LALLY**

Executive Secretary  
Los Angeles Police  
Protective League

**MARK YOUNG**

Vice President,  
Associate Members  
Detroit Police Lieutenants &  
Sergeants Association

Furthermore, limitations on purely defensive equipment, such as head, face and body protection equipment will further endanger the lives of law enforcement officers, who have increasingly become targets of revenge and ambush attacks. According to a recent Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office report, in 2019, 32 law enforcement officers were shot and 11 died as a result of being ambushed. Another 84 officers were shot and 14 died in situations where the offender acted without warning in a premeditated/calculated manner taking an officer by surprise.

**JAMES PALMER**

Parliamentarian  
Wisconsin Professional Police  
Association

**WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE**

Executive Director and  
General Counsel

Restricting access to this equipment will endanger the lives of police officers and communities across the nation. NAPO urges you to strongly consider our concerns and oppose any limitations on this vital equipment. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, Esq.  
Executive Director