



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

November 17, 2021

**MICHAEL McHALE**  
President  
Florida Police Benevolent  
Association

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

### **RE: NAPPO Opposition S.Amdt.4466 to S.Amdt.3867 to H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal 2022**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPPO), representing over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the nation, I am writing to advise you of our opposition to Senate Amendment 4466 to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal 2022, offered by Senator Brian Schatz.

Programs like the Department of Defense's 1033 Program 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 not only in protecting communities against violent criminals, but also in responding to natural disasters, which are unfortunately increasing in frequency.

NAPPO is extremely concerned that the legitimate and well-demonstrated needs of officers are being overlooked due to the optics of law enforcement agencies obtaining this equipment from the Department of Defense. Law enforcement agencies should not be required to undergo the cumbersome and impractical process proposed by this Amendment to obtain and use equipment to protect officers and our communities. This gear, which has been repurposed for public safety use, fulfills legitimate police needs and the lack of such gear can have life-threatening consequences for officers and the communities they serve.

Given that state and local law enforcement are our nation's first responders to incidents from foreign and domestic terrorism to active shooter situations to flood rescues, Congress should be ensuring law enforcement agencies are able to acquire such equipment for the protection of their communities, not limiting it.

Restricting access to this equipment will endanger the lives of police officers and the civilians they are sworn to protect. NAPPO urges you to strongly consider our concerns and oppose Senator Schatz's Amendment 4466. 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

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Executive Director and  
General Counsel

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