



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS March 16, 2017

MICHAEL McHALE  
President  
Florida Police Benevolent  
Association

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
United State Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Vice Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

TODD HARRISON  
Recording Secretary  
Combined Law Enforcement  
Association of Texas

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Acting Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

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

Dear Senators Shelby and Shaheen and Congressmen Culberson and Serrano:

CRAIG D. LALLY  
Executive Secretary  
Los Angeles Police  
Protective League

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to thank you for your consistent leadership in supporting federal assistance to state and local law enforcement and criminal justice programs, particularly the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) and the COPS Hiring Program. We respectfully ask for your continued support for these programs and request strong funding for Byrne JAG and the COPS Hiring Program in the FY 2018 Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill.

JAMES PALMER  
Parliamentarian  
Wisconsin Professional Police  
Association

NAPO is a coalition of police units 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.

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE  
Executive Director and  
General Counsel

Byrne JAG supports the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices. States, territories, cities and counties all across this nation use Byrne JAG funding to test emerging and evidence-based approaches to the public safety challenges facing their jurisdictions. It allows for a system-wide approach that enables communities to target resources to their most pressing local needs. This important program funds state and local law enforcement, including multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces, information sharing and technology, county jails, prosecutors, drug courts, and juvenile delinquency and drug treatment programs.

The COPS Hiring Program has assisted more than 13,000 jurisdictions with over \$14 billion in funding to hire more than 127,000 community police officers across the United States. A big part of the success of the original program was its reliance on local police agencies in defining what their communities needed. In recent years, however, the COPS Hiring Program shifted away from its original intent and became a tool to move a distinct political agenda. The COPS

Office adopted a top-down, one-size-fits all approach that discounted local input in favor of controversial political theories regarding department composition, reeducation, and policies. Now is the time to refocus COPS Hiring funding on the hiring and retention of officers.

As major cities across the country are facing an increase in violent crime for the first time in years and community-police relations are strained, now is not the time to put additional stresses on state and local police forces by leaving them short-handed. It is vital that the COPS Program and the Byrne JAG be adequately funded.

We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction. We thank you for your work and leadership on these important issues and urge you to appropriate sufficient funding in the FY 2018 CJS appropriations bill for the COPS Hiring Program and Byrne JAG to remain strong and robust. Please contact me at (703) 549-0775 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson, Esq. CAE  
Executive Director