



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 ~ Email: info@napo.org

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

**Executive Director and
General Counsel**

April 22, 2015

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Doug Collins
United States House of Representatives
1504 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Franken and Congressman Collins:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our full support for the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act (S. 993/H.R. 1854).

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.

The Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act will improve access to mental health services for people who come into contact with the criminal justice system, and provide law enforcement officers with the tools they need to identify and respond to mental health issues in the communities they serve.

This bipartisan legislation will reauthorize and improve the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act. Among other initiatives, this legislation will continue support for crisis intervention teams; support 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; and support the development of curricula and training for police academies.

NAPO fully supports the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, and we look forward to working with you to pass this critical legislation during the 114th Congress.

Please let us know how we can be of further assistance, and feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director