



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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**Executive Director and**

**General Counsel**

May 28, 2015

The Honorable John Conyers  
United States House of Representatives  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express concerns with the Shield Our Streets Act (H.R. 103), which we urge you to consider.

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 Shield our Streets Act would authorize the Attorney General to carry out a program, through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, to award grants to assist eligible local law enforcement agencies with hiring and training new law enforcement officers and with rehiring career law enforcement officers who have been laid off as a result of budget reductions.

While NAPO has long been the strongest single supporter of hiring and rehiring law enforcement officers, we have concerns about the legislation's provision of using Department of Justice funding to hire Public Defenders, but not Prosecutors. We feel strongly that the bill should be amended to also fund state and local Prosecutors.

NAPO urges you to consider the aforementioned recommendation. If you would like to discuss our recommendation further, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson  
Executive Director