



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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

November 30, 2018

MICHAEL McHALE

President

Florida Police Benevolent
Association

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

Majority Leader

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

JOHN A. FLYNN

Vice President

Patrolmen's Benevolent
Association of New York City

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

TODD HARRISON

Recording Secretary

Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to reiterate our strong opposition to the latest iteration of the Formerly Incarcerated Reenter Society Transformed Safely Transitioning Every Person (FIRST STEP) Act.

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN

Treasurer

Massachusetts Coalition
of Police

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.

MARC KOVAR

Sergeant-at-Arms

New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association

We strongly feel that the FIRST STEP Act would negatively impact public safety. States and localities would become the dumping ground for violent federal criminals who are awarded good time credits and obtained early release. Further, the bill does not contain the safeguards, support and resources to states and localities that would be necessary for communities to handle the influx of newly released prisoners. As we have seen in states such as California and Louisiana, while the state prison reforms have led to lower state prison populations and some savings for the state, it has resulted in increased stresses on local and county budgets and resources as those prisoners who were once wards of the state fill county jails and flood community services.

CRAIG D. LALLY

Executive Secretary

Los Angeles Police
Protective League

MARK YOUNG

Vice President,

Associate Members

Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association

JAMES PALMER

Parliamentarian

Wisconsin Professional Police
Association

The bill provides significant early release benefits to *all* federal offenders, with the greatest benefits given to high-recidivism offenders -- most notably, drug traffickers, the most serious of whom also receive reduced mandatory minimum sentences under the bill. Further, the bill provides a blanket reduction in sentences to the most serious drug traffickers (repeat traffickers with a high risk of recidivism), which will likely create more crime in our communities and impose a greater resource burden on law enforcement.

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE

Executive Director and

General Counsel

While NAPO supports true second chances that bring about the productive return of prisoners to their communities, we do not endorse the implementation of reckless reforms to our nation's criminal justice system that will harm public safety and lead directly to the injury and deaths of police officers and citizens alike. Such significant changes should

first be thoroughly studied and must include the input of the federal, state and local public safety community, which plays an integral role in the system.

NAPO urges you to strongly consider our concerns with the FIRST STEP Act, which are shared by many in the law enforcement community. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

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
Executive Director