

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

Executive Director

June 19, 2012

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file police officers from across the United States, I would like to thank you for your introduction of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2012.

NAPO has been closely involved with the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) grant program since its inception and has worked to shape and advance the 1998 legislation. We have subsequently served as a national advocate for the BVP program and worked to secure successful passage for the reauthorization from 2008 through 2012.

During the February 2012 hearing, "Protecting Those Who Protect Us: Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program" NAPO submitted testimony that recommends the \$27 million of unused funds for the BVP program be allocated and utilized by departments. Additionally, NAPO advocates for a mandatory care, measurement, fit and maintenance policy for Bulletproof Vests.

NAPO commends the Judiciary Committee for its bipartisan efforts for passage of a five-year reauthorization that authorizes undisbursed funds and its support of the requirement that vests be uniquely fitted to each officer.

NAPO applauds your efforts to improve the BVP grant program and its goal to ensure that the safety needs of rank-and-file officers are met. We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation. If you have any questions on how NAPO can further assist your efforts, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Government Affairs Director, Rachel Hedge, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

CC: Senator Chuck Grassley
Congressman Frank Lobiondo
Senate Judiciary Committee
House Judiciary Committee