



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director

August 13, 2009

The Honorable Judd Gregg
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gregg:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file law enforcement officers from across the United States, I would like to advise you of our wholehearted support for the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, S. 1611, and thank you for your efforts to extend the basic American right of collective bargaining for wages, hours, and safe working conditions to all public safety officers.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act will guarantee that law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service workers in all 50 states have the right to discuss workplace issues with their employers. It will provide a framework for such discussions, while respecting the right and flexibility of states to write their own laws for public sector workers. Importantly, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act prohibits strikes and does not call for mandatory arbitration. States that offer equal or greater collective bargaining rights will be exempt from this federal statute. This legislation will not overturn current collective bargaining laws – it will only provide basic collective bargaining rights to those who currently do not have them.

The public safety is best protected through effective partnerships between first responders on the front lines and the agencies that employ them. S. 1611 will ensure that all public safety officers have the opportunity to meet with local officials to discuss how they do their jobs and how best to protect the public. NAPO is proud to join you once again in the fight to pass this important legislation and we thank you for your continued support of America's law enforcement. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Government Affairs Director, Andrea Mournighan, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson

Executive Director