

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director

June 6, 2012

The Honorable Michael Grimm
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grimm:

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 amendment to increase funding to the Senate level of \$35.18 million for the Urban Search and Rescue Teams Program within the House Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

NAPO has served as an active voice for key grant programs that benefit law enforcement in their efforts to maintain Homeland Security. Most state and local police departments are the victims of budget reductions that leave them understaffed and underfunded. The same is true at the federal level; the level of funding for vital law enforcement programs has been significantly reduced. Although funding levels may have been diminished, the responsibilities of law enforcement have not.

The Urban Search and Rescue Teams Program is half funded by the Department of Homeland Security and the remainder by the local police and fire departments' budgets. By increasing funds for this program to the Senate level, more money can be spent on officers and their local communities.

NAPO supports your efforts to increase funding for the Urban Search and Rescue Teams Program. If you have any questions or would like additional information from NAPO, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Hedge, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

cc: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Congressman Peter King