

## NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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Thomas N. Faust **Executive Director** Alexandria, Virginia October 5, 2005

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United States House of Representatives 233 Cannon House Office Building

Dear Congressman Dreier:

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Dreier

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association and our more than 22,000 members, I would like to express our ardent support for H.R. 3900, the Justice for Peace Officers Act. This very important piece of legislation recognizes that all law enforcement officers - federal, state, or local - are deserving of the same protections and rights under the law.

The Justice for Peace Officers Act will help ensure that more criminals are brought to justice and that fleeing the country will not protect them from prosecution. Knowing that the full weight of the federal government and all of its resources will act to bring a cop killer to justice is encouraging to local law enforcement. We applaud you for improving upon a strong bill and for recognizing the authority of local prosecutors by granting them priority in prosecution.

If enacted, this law will send a signal to all criminals that killing a law enforcement officer is the most serious of offenses and that those who do so will face the most severe consequences! We agree that death or life imprisonment for first degree murder and a minimum of 30 years in prison for a second degree murder charge are appropriate penalties for cop killers! Further, this bill astutely recognizes the need to harshly punish those who would be convicted of aiding and abetting such villains.

The National Sheriffs' Association and all 3,087 sheriffs across the country thank you for your support of local law enforcement. We are prepared to do all that we can to aid in the passage of H.R. 3900, the Justice for Peace Officers Act.

Sincerely

Sheriff Edmund M. "Ted" Sexton,

President

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