

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS** August 3, 2017

MICHAEL McHALE President Florida Police Benevolent Association

Senator John Cornyn **United States Senate** 517 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

JOHN A. FLYNN Vice President Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of New York City

Dear Senator Cornyn:

**TODD HARRISON Recording Secretary** Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our support for the Building America's Trust Act.

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN Treasurer Massachusetts Coalition of Police NAPO is a coalition of police unions 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

> 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

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE Executive Director and **General Counsel** 

NAPO has long supported efforts to clamp down on sanctuary policies in cities, which make it difficult for law enforcement to effectively protect communities from violent criminal aliens. The country's immigration system relies on state and local law enforcement collaborating and communicating with their federal counterparts. Sanctuary cities forbid their local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration officials, which has led to the release of violent criminals back into our communities. The Building America's Trust Act takes crucial steps to eliminating sanctuary jurisdictions, which pose real threats to the American people, and increases penalties for criminal aliens who re-enter the United States illegally.

Further, cross-border crime is a significant concern for law enforcement. It impacts communities both along our Southwest border and across the country as drugs trafficked across the border are transported and sold on our neighborhood streets. With these drugs come an increase in gang activity, assaults, larceny and burglary to our communities. By targeting aliens associated with violent crime and criminal gangs, this bill gives law enforcement an important tool in fighting cross-border crimes as well as the steady growth in gang participation and drug crimes nationwide.

Through additional law enforcement support along the border and increased penalties for criminal aliens, this bill provides federal, state and local law enforcement vital tools to help keep our communities safe. We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, Esq.

**Executive Director**