



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

October 7, 2015

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United States Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 2051

Chairman Chuck Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20150

Senator Ron Johnson  
United States Senate  
328 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20150

Senator Pat Toomey  
United States Senate  
248 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ted Cruz  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20150

Dear Senators Vitter, Toomey, Grassley, Cruz, and Johnson:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our support for the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act, which will enable federal and local law enforcement officers to work together to protect our communities.

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.

The system relies on local law enforcement complying with immigration detainers—requests from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for local law enforcement to hold an illegal immigrant temporarily, to give federal law enforcement an opportunity to take the individual into custody.

Unfortunately, several courts have ruled that local law enforcement officers may be sued for violating the Fourth Amendment if they comply with an immigration detainer, even if the detainer was lawfully issued and the detention would have been legal if carried out by DHS. This means that dangerous criminals cannot be held and must be released. The Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act solves this problem by explicitly stating that local law enforcement officers have legal authority to comply with immigration detainers. The bill also protects civil liberties, ensuring that someone who has had their constitutional rights violated may sue.

Furthermore, the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act takes crucial steps to eliminating sanctuary jurisdictions, which pose real threats to the American people, and increases penalties for criminals who re-enter the United States illegally, providing federal, state and local law enforcement vital tools to help keep our communities safe.

NAPO also commends you for preserving flexibility for law enforcement, so that victims of crime and witnesses to crime who are in the U.S. illegally may come forward and cooperate with police.

We look forward to working with your offices to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William J. Johnson  
Executive Director