



September 11, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chair
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Reed, and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for four critical amendments filed to S. 4638, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025: S. Amdt. 2528, S. Amdt. 2423, S. Amdt. 3048, and S. Amdt. 2175. These bipartisan amendments are legislative priorities for the federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and agencies we represent, and we urge you to join us in supporting their inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA.

S. Amdt. 2528, the *Law Enforcement and Victim Support Act*, offered by Senators John Cornyn and Jon Ossoff, is comprised of nine bills that passed unanimously out of the Senate, including several priority bills for law enforcement: the Fighting PTSD Act, the American Law Enforcement SAVER Act, Project Safe Neighborhoods Reauthorization Act, the Strong Communities Act, and Project Safe Childhood Act. These bills would help protect the mental health and physical wellbeing of law enforcement officers, provide resources to address the recruitment crisis the profession is facing, and provide departments tools to fight violent crime and protect our innocent children from exploitation.

S. Amdt. 2423, which is the *Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act* sponsored by Senators Amy Klobuchar and Kevin Cramer, would recognize carcinogen-related cancers as line of duty injuries under the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program. Much like the PACT Act, this amendment recognizes the physical consequences of first

responders inhaling deadly chemical fumes and particulate matter from car crashes, house fires, and chemical spills, amongst other events and disasters.

S. Amdt. 3048, the *Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act*, offered by Senators Marco Rubio and Jon Ossoff, addresses the recruitment and retention crisis facing law enforcement by creating a first-time homebuyer program that aims to remove the biggest financial barriers for buying a house: the down payment requirement and a monthly insurance premium requirement. The program created by this bill will help the men and women who have chosen to serve their communities buy homes, which otherwise might not be possible.

S. Amdt. 2175, the *Combating Illicit Xylazine Act*, sponsored by Senators Catherine Cortez Masto and Charles Grassley, would add xylazine, a deadly drug compounding the opioid crisis, to the Controlled Substances Act.

Every one of these amendments would provide essential support and resources for federal, state, and local law enforcement, who play a significant role in our nation's security, and give them the tools to effectively protect our communities. We urge you to support these amendments and join us in fighting for their inclusion in the final Fiscal 2025 NDAA.

Sincerely,

Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)
Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD

CC: Hon. Dick Durbin, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hon. Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hon. Sherrod Brown, Chair, Senate Banking Committee
Hon. Tim Scott, Ranking Member, Senate Banking Committee