



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS February 28, 2024

MICHAEL McHALE
President
Florida Police Benevolent Association

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President
Police Benevolent Association of New York City

Dear Senator Cruz:

CRAIG LALLY
Recording Secretary
Los Angeles Police Protective League

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN
Treasurer
Massachusetts Coalition of Police

KEITH CURRY
Sergeant-at-Arms
New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association

SCOTT LEETON
Executive Secretary
Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas

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

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to advise you of our support for S. 3808, the No FAMS at the Border Act. NAPO represents more than 1,000 police units and associations and over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers from across the United States. Our member organization, the Air Marshal National Council (AMNC), has been leading the fight against forced deployments to the border and we applaud them for their efforts to protect the rights and working conditions of their members.

On November 7, 2022, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas began deploying Federal Air Marshals to the southern border to assist Customs and Border Patrol in mainly non-law enforcement duties. Until that point, these 21-day deployments had been voluntary for air marshals, but due to the lack of interest in such deployments, the Secretary made them mandatory.

According to a January 2021 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, the heavy travel requirements of the Federal Air Marshal Service have resulted in enduring quality of life challenges including unpredictable work schedules and mental and physical health issues. The GAO report also found that the Service has done nothing to address the overall health of its workforce, which this nation relies on to protect our aviation system. Forcing 21-plus day deployments to the southern border only exacerbates these workforce issues.

These deployments are not only a health and wellness issue for air marshals, but they are also a safety issue for our country. The Service is understaffed and covering fewer flights since before September 11, 2001. Many high-risk flights are going without air marshals at a time when there have been several in-air threats to planes. We strongly question why Federal Air Marshals are being diverted to the southern border, where no Federal emergency has been declared, when our planes and skies are left relatively unsecured.

The No FAMS at the Border Act would address these issues and 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

Executive Director