



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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**GILBERT G. GALLEGOS**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**JERRY W. ATNIP**  
NATIONAL SECRETARY

March 27, 2000

The Honorable Trent Lott  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lott,

I am writing to you on behalf of the more than 285,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police on a police officer safety matter of great concern to us.

In the wake of one firearms manufacturer's decision to adhere to certain standards of conduct imposed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we are concerned that members of the Senate may offer legislation or amendments to pending bills on the Senate floor which would require local, State and/or Federal law enforcement agencies to purchase their firearms from manufacturers who have agreed to HUD's terms. We strongly disagree with this approach to firearms safety and would vigorously oppose any such efforts.

The top concern of any law enforcement agency purchasing firearms is officer safety, not adherence to a particular political philosophy. Law enforcement agencies have to stretch every dollar and they need to get the best weapons for their officers that their budget allows. Reducing their choice by imposing a requirement that they buy only from gunmakers who agree to certain HUD stipulations does not help the law enforcement mission.

Firearms issues are difficult issues as we try to walk the fine line between public safety and constitutional rights. We have worked with the Senate successfully in the past on these issues and we have always found you to be a champion of the views of law enforcement in this debate. We are urging you to discourage any initiatives imposing restrictions on the ability of law enforcement agencies to purchase the very best equipment available. Efforts to the contrary are political only and do not benefit public safety.

I hope that you will keep the view of the Fraternal Order of Police in mind should this matter become an issue. Please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco through my Washington office if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Gilbert G. Gallegos  
National President