



**GRAND LODGE  
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

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STEVE YOUNG  
PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

9 May 2002

Mr. Thomas J. Scotto  
President, National Association of Police Organizations  
C/O Detectives' Endowment Association of New York City  
26 Thomas Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Scotto:

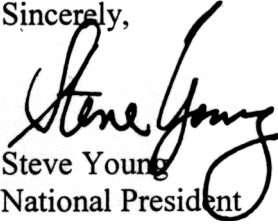
I was greatly disappointed to see the full-page advertisement in the 6 May edition of *Roll Call* touting your organization's support for legislation concerning the "gun show loophole." The resources spent on such an ad could have been put to much greater effect in support of legislation which would be of greater benefit to America's law enforcement officers. Perhaps instead of running an ad in support of closing the "gun show loophole," you could have encouraged Americans for Gun Safety to sponsor an ad in support of concealed carry authority for active and retired law enforcement officers.

For many years, the Fraternal Order of Police has advocated for passage of H.R. 218, the "Community Protection Act," legislation which would enhance a police officer's ability to protect himself and his family at all times—even if off-duty or retired. Just yesterday, Senators Leahy and Hatch introduced the Senate companion to this legislation—S. 2480, the "Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act"—at the request of the Fraternal Order of Police. The passage of these two pieces of legislation is the F.O.P.'s top legislative priority because they are *the* measures currently before Congress which would have the most profound impact on officer safety. Unfortunately, judging by the resources expended on the advertisement, we may have overestimated NAPO's commitment to this issue.

Allowing your organization to be used by Americans for Gun Safety to lobby for passage of the McCain-Lieberman bill under the guise of protecting law enforcement officers draws attention away from the importance of passing the "Community Protection Act" and the "Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act" and, in my opinion, does not in any way reflect the views of rank-and-file police officers. In fact, your very public support of this legislation will have the effect of creating the mistaken impression in the minds of Congressional leaders that, in terms of enhancing officer safety, law enforcement finds the McCain-Lieberman legislation *preferable* to the passage of H.R. 218 or S. 2480. It will indeed be interesting to see how you explain *your* choice of priorities to your membership.

I hope that in the future you will exercise greater care in your choice of partners in advocating for the enactment or defeat of legislation. But in terms of your current situation, the bottom line is this: the top priority of Americans for Gun Safety is closing the “gun show loophole,” the top priority of rank and file police officers is passage of H.R. 218 and S. 2480. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any advice or assistance on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "Y" at the end.

Steve Young  
National President

CC: Executive Board, National Fraternal Order of Police