



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3 October 2014

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam D. Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Smith,

I am writing on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong opposition to Rep. Johnson's bill H.R. 5478, the "Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act", which has been referred to the House Armed Services Committee.

This act would limit the 1033 program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and provides State and local law enforcement access to a wide variety of equipment. This equipment is acquired through an application process which establishes that the requesting agency has a need for the equipment.

This program does not "militarize" the police. It provides equipment that the DoD has bought but cannot use. The equipment is then demilitarized and repurposed for what the purchasing State or local law enforcement agency sees as necessary to increase safety. In order to keep the public safe, law enforcement needs to make sure they have the capabilities to defend themselves as well. Equipment such as armored vehicles and aircraft are used for this purpose and make high risk situations, such as SWAT and hostage operations, safer for the officers and the community.

Law enforcement needs to be able to protect themselves and the public from assault, and having such equipment as the 1033 program issues is necessary in an environment where criminals are armed with increasingly dangerous weapons. This includes situations where criminals are wearing body armor, using armor-piercing ammunition, and explosives. If the police are outgunned and out-armored by these criminals, they have no way to protect the lives of civilians or themselves.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to express our strong opposition to this legislation. Also, please see my testimony submitted to the U.S.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee at their hearing entitled "Oversight of Federal Programs for Equipping State and Local Law Enforcement". If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President