United States Senate Office 50 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator

Law enforcement officers are still under attack!

A record number of officers -more than 79,000- were physically assaulted in 2023, as recorded by <u>FBI data</u>. They continue to be shot at, stabbed, punched, kicked, spit on, and ambushed in large numbers.

Compounding this are politicians who attempt to limit or eradicate officers' qualified immunity protections. During the last congressional session, Democrats introduced the *Ending Qualified Immunity Act* in the Senate, and several states have already passed laws to this effect.

Meanwhile, rogue district attorneys are increasingly <u>prosecuting police officers</u> who use justifiable force in compliance with the law and their training.

The fallout from these attacks has been disastrous. Police agencies across the country continue to experience historical staffing shortages, which has prompted some to lower their hiring standards. Officers are burned out and feel demoralized, fear retribution for legitimately doing their jobs, and are engaging less in proactive and community policing. We're all less safe as a result.

It's why we urge you to co-sponsor key bills to help mitigate this damage. These include the following:

- The *Protect and Serve Act* (<u>S. 167</u> / <u>H.R. 1551</u>) would create a new federal crime for knowingly targeting a federal, state, or local police officer with violence.
- The *Thin Blue Line Act* (<u>S. 83</u> / <u>H.R. 378</u>) would expand federal death penalty eligibility for the murder or attempted murder of a state or local police officer.
- The *Qualified Immunity Act* (<u>S. 122</u> / <u>H.R. 503</u>) would codify existing qualified immunity protections into law.

We also ask you to consider sponsoring the following proposed bill from the National Police Association.

• The <u>Police Officer Self-Defense Protection Act</u> would provide federal protection for an officer who uses justifiable force in self-defense when facing a credible threat.

As Americans, we're guaranteed the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, all of which are dependent on individual security. Well-trained officers and fully functioning police departments are vital to this mission.

The men and women of law enforcement have our backs every day. Please support them by working to ensure meaningful legislation is made available for President Trump's signature.

Respectfully,