



The Washington Report

The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations
Representing America's Finest

July 17, 2026

NAPO on the Hill: NDAA

NAPO continues to work to pass our priority legislation that has been approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee by any path possible, including as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). We worked with bill sponsors and the Senate Judiciary Committee to submit five amendments to the Senate's Fiscal 2027 NDAA:

- The **Officer John Barnes and Chief Michael Ansbro Public Safety Officers' Benefits Expansion Act**, offered by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). This bill, which is a top priority for NAPO, would make vital changes to the PSOB Program to increase transparency and accountability and ensure the Program honors and supports officers and their families who have sacrificed so much in service to their communities.
- The **Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Act**, offered by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), Chris Coons (D-DE), Ted Cruz (R-TX), and Thom Tillis (R-NC) as part of a larger bipartisan Judiciary Committee amendment. This bill, another NAPO priority, would direct the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop treatment programs for police, fire, emergency medical and 911 personnel who suffer from PTSD or acute stress disorders. By recognizing the prevalence of PTSD within the public safety profession and the need to address PTSD and acute stress disorder among officers, this bill would help make certain they get the treatment and help they need.
- The **Federal Carjacking Enforcement Act**, offered by Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), would make it easier for federal prosecutors to prove carjacking offenses.
- The **Strong Communities Act**, offered by Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), would allow for COPS Hiring Program funds to be used to pay for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in the communities in which they live
- The **Combating Xylazine Act**, offered by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) as part of a large bipartisan Senate Judiciary Committee crime-related amendment, would classify xylazine as a Schedule III drug, invoking penalties on those who choose to illegally use and distribute the drug.

Senate Democrats blocked consideration of the FY27 NDAA on July 14 due to their opposition to the renewed war with Iran. This is a must-pass bill, and it is unclear when the Senate will try to take up the bill again, but it does not look like it will be before they adjourn for their month-long recess on August 6. NAPO will use this time to continue to build bipartisan support for the inclusion of our amendments in the NDAA.

Senate Judiciary Committee Holds Nomination Hearing for Todd Blanche to be Attorney General

On July 15 and 16, the Senate Judiciary Committee held the nomination hearing for current Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche to be the next Attorney General of the United States. NAPO endorses Mr. Blanche's nomination and we sent [a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee](#) urging the Committee to support and approve his nomination that was read into the hearing record by Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA).

Throughout his distinguished career in both public service and the private sector, Mr. Blanche has proven his commitment to the rule of law and a fair and impartial justice system. As Deputy Attorney General and, later, Acting Attorney General, he has built a strong partnership with the law enforcement community. From supporting the Department of Justice's law enforcement assistance grant programs to working to ensure accountability within the Public Safety Officers Benefits (PSOB) Program, he has consistently endeavored to meet the needs of state and local law enforcement officers and their families.

The Committee will next hold a vote to approve his nomination and assuming he is approved, the nomination will move to the full Senate for a vote. Cabinet nominees are not subject to the filibuster and only need a simple majority vote to be confirmed.

NAPO Backs Deputy Darren Almendarez Act

NAPO pledged our support for the Deputy Darren Almendarez Act, a bipartisan effort to crack down on catalytic converter theft, to be introduced by Congressmen Brandon Gill (R-TX) and Lou Correa (D-CA). The legislation would make it a federal crime to knowingly possess, purchase, or sell a catalytic converter that has been unlawfully removed from a motor vehicle when the conduct affects interstate or foreign commerce.

Violators would be subject to fines of up to \$100,000 and imprisonment for up to five years, with enhanced penalties for repeat offenders. It would protect legitimate activities by exempting vehicle owners or lessees removing converters from their own vehicles; manufacturers, dealers, and repair facilities acting within their official duties; and licensed and regulated recycling entities, salvage yards, law enforcement, educational programs, and other specified organizations.

The Deputy Darren Almendarez Act would provide federal, state, and local law enforcement an important tool to combat criminal enterprises trafficking in stolen catalytic converters in our communities and would serve as a significant deterrent to prevent these thefts.

The legislation is named in honor of Harris County, Texas, Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez, who was shot and killed while off duty when he attempted to stop three men who were stealing a catalytic converter, and is modeled after a Texas state law of the same name.

Please monitor NAPO's website, www.napo.org, and Facebook page: [National Association of Police Organizations](#), and follow us on X at [NAPOpolice](#) for breaking news and updates.

Special Thanks to Our 2026 Convention Exhibitors & Sponsors

Platinum

Blue Shield Wealth Management

Unlocking Your Potential Together

Empower

Nation's Largest Provider of Governmental Deferred Compensation Plans

Nationwide Retirement Solutions

Public Sector Retirement Plans

Gold

Sterling Group

Supporting Law Enforcement

Detroit Lions

Supporting Law Enforcement

FirstNet Built with AT&T

Designed with and for First Responders

Silver

Atlas Privacy

Protecting Law Enforcement from Doxxing & Harassment

Citizen Watch America

The Citizen Thin Blue Line Watch Produced to Honor Law Enforcement

Coalition Against Bigger Trucks

Protecting Our Public & Our Police Officers

Mariner

Largest Financial Firm Focused on Financial Wellness for Law Enforcement

OraTek Diagnostics

The Future of DUI Testing is Here

Ricochet Systems

Affordable, Secure & Powerful Union Management

Smarter By One Degree

Earn a Fully Accredited Bachelor's Degree Efficiently, Flexibly & Affordably

Spectrum Advisory Group

Supplemental Life Insurance & Product Development for First Responders

Bronze

Alliance for Prosperity & A Secured Retirement

Established to Represent the Interests of Those Investing for Their Retirement

Center for Countering Human Trafficking

HSI-led Initiative That Coordinates DHS Efforts to Combat Sex Trafficking & Forced Labor

C.O.P.S. Health Trust

Coalition of Public Safety Trust Funds

Corebridge Financial

Financial Planning & Retirement Services

Cross Country Mortgage

Original “No Bank Fee” First Responder National Home Mortgage Program

Daybright ~ U.S. Bencore/MidAmerica

Retirement, Health & Welfare Products & Services for Public Sector Employees

Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C.

Legal Services Benefit Plan

Fuse Systems

Technology Solutions Company Specializing in Union Administration

Heroes On the Water

Nonprofit Serving Veterans & First Responders. Paddle. Fish. Heal.

Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT)

Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Law Enforcement Specialist

Off Duty Coordination

Law Firm of Alex Dell

Representing LE Officers with Workers’ Compensation, Disability & Veterans Affairs Claims

National Student Debt Forgiveness Center

Federal Student Loan Forgiveness Programs

NEP Services

Building Power for & Amplifying the Voice of America’s Finest

New Era Investments, LLC

Providing Knowledge & Power to Make Your Future Happen

Skelly Strategic Solutions

Full Service Public Relations Firm for Law Enforcement

Union Strong App

The Power of a Union Hall in Your Pocket

United Benefits

Innovative Benefits & Retirement Strategies that Attract, Retain & Protect

Special Thanks to Our 2026 Convention Law Enforcement Sponsors

Platinum

**Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association
Detroit Police Officers Association**

Gold

**Chicago Police Sergeants' Association
South Florida Police Benevolent Association
Nassau County Police Benevolent Association**

Silver

**Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs
Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas
Detectives' Endowment Association of the NYPD
Florida Police Benevolent Association
Los Angeles Police Protective League
Massachusetts Coalition of Police
MTA Police Benevolent Association
New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association
Phoenix Law Enforcement Association
Police Benevolent Association of the City of New York
Port Authority Police Benevolent Association
Postal Police Officers Association
Sergeants Benevolent Association of the NYPD
Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association**

Bronze

**Buffalo Police Benevolent Association
Corpus Christi Police Officers Association
Las Vegas Metro Police Managers & Supervisors Association
Las Vegas Police Protective Association
Montana Police Protective Association
Nassau County Superior Officers Association
Nassau Police Conference
Newark Police Superior Officers' Association
North Las Vegas Police Officers Association
NYPD Captains Endowment Association
Port Authority Police Lieutenants Benevolent Association
Port Authority Police Sergeants Benevolent Association
Rochester Police Locust Club**