



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

November 16, 2005

THOMAS J. NEE

President

Boston Police
Patrolmen's Association

Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MICHAEL J. PALLADINO

Executive Vice President

Detectives' Endowment
Association of New York City

Dear Member of Congress:

MICHAEL J. MADONNA

Recording Secretary

New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) represents 238,000 rank-and-file police officers from across the United States, who are the first to respond to national disasters and risk their lives daily for the safety of our nation's communities. First responders receive high priority for any available vaccine in the event of a disease outbreak, second only to public health and health care workers. This priority recognizes the essential responsibilities of first responders in protecting the American people during times of crisis.

SEAN M. SMOOT

Treasurer

Police Benevolent & Protective
Association of Illinois

In 2002, during the effort to vaccinate first responders against smallpox, the nation experienced a situation in which some of the individuals who accepted vaccines in the public interest risked previously unpredicted adverse medical consequences. In this instance, Congress ultimately recognized a public obligation to provide compensation to persons who suffered adverse effects from the vaccines.

JAKE JACOBSEN

Sergeant-at-Arms

Phoenix Law
Enforcement Association

The same justification for a first responder compensation program exists for future prevention measures against serious disease outbreaks, whether they occur naturally or as a result of a biological terrorist attack. For many first responders it is not a voluntary act to accept new or experimental vaccines. Rather it is required by their agency as a condition of their employment. We recognize this fact, and, in fairness, the Congress should also recognize this fact and compensate those public safety officers or the survivors of such public safety officers who suffer injury in preparing themselves to protect the rest of us.

SANDRA J. GRACE

Executive Secretary

New Bedford (MA)
Police Union

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

Executive Director

I therefore urge you to support a public safety compensation program that would protect first responders and public health workers who are adversely affected by the vaccinations. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Legislative Assistant, Andrea Mournighan, at (202) 842-4420.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 2,000 police unions and associations, 238,000 sworn law enforcement officers, 11,000 retired officers and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.