



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

HUGH J. CAMERON
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THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS



May 2, 2017

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Shaheen:

Thank you for your leadership and past support of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program. As you begin work on the Subcommittee's appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2018, we respectfully request that you include a standalone funding level of \$30,000,000 for the Bulletproof Vest program.

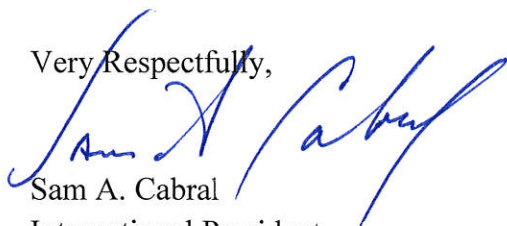
According to the Government Accountability Office, bulletproof vests have saved the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers since 1987. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership has helped law enforcement officers in 13,000 jurisdictions purchase nearly 1.2 million lifesaving vests that their departments would not be able to afford otherwise.

In recent years, demand for bulletproof vests has surpassed allocated funding. In 2016, the program was able to reimburse 50% of the request total made by small jurisdictions, but that left enough money to fund less than 1% of the total request made by larger jurisdictions. With state and local law enforcement already struggling under significant budget constraints, and the demand for vests as high as ever, it is imperative that Congress continue to invest in this lifesaving program. Our support is critical to ensuring that both large and small jurisdictions can participate in a program that truly protects those who risk their lives daily for our safety.

Bulletproof vests remain one of the primary forms of defense for our uniformed officers. The National Institute of Justice indicates an officer is 14 times more likely to suffer a fatal injury in the absence of protective armor. No officer should have to serve without one. As you weigh priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, we urge you to consider the proven lifesaving effectiveness of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your leadership on this important matter.

Very Respectfully,



Sam A. Cabral
International President