



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL  
*International President*

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February 25, 2021

The Honorable Jim Banks  
United States House of Representatives  
1713 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Banks:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, I am proud to add our name to those who endorse and support your legislation, **H.R. 288** the “**Qualified Immunity Act of 2021**”.

We represent active duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals across this great nation as well as in the United States territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. We are acutely aware of the need for qualified immunity to shield officers from harassment and liability when they perform their duties in a reasonable manner.

As you know, law enforcement officers work in a demanding environment. They encounter people at their very worst, frequently during highly emotional episodes, sometimes fueled with drugs or alcohol or both. They are required to make split second decisions in these charged surroundings. Those decisions will then be scrutinized over the days and weeks that follow, always absent the stressful and emergent nature of the situation when those decisions were made. They will sometimes make reasonable mistakes. They should not have to second guess themselves with the uncertainty that they could lose everything should someone later find that, while their actions were reasonable under the circumstances known to the officer at the time, they were later ruled to be unconstitutional, such as a search and seizure or arrest.

This notion of “qualified immunity” is under attack in state houses across the country. Losing this reasonable protection will have a chilling impact on these brave men and women. It would dissuade them from taking definitive actions when required.

I look forward to working with you and your staff to bring this Bill forward. If we can assist, please contact Dennis J. Slocumb, our Legislative Director, at [dslocumb@iupa.org](mailto:dslocumb@iupa.org).

Very Respectfully,



Sam A. Cabral

International President