



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL  
*International President*

MICHAEL V. CRIVELLO  
*International Secretary-Treasurer*

---

May 3, 2021

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey  
United States Senate  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, I am proud to endorse and support your critical legislation, the **“Life Saving Gear for Police Act”**.

As violent crime rates soar, there are those who would like to defund and disarm our police. Our Law Enforcement Officers are facing more and more sophisticated weapons and equipment from those who terrorize and victimize our communities. Our officers have to both respond to these threats, but also be afforded the equipment that enables their response to be effective.

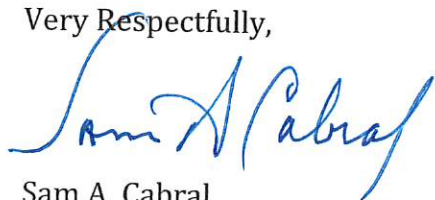
As far back as 1997, two well-armed and armored bank robbers committed a broad daylight robbery of a bank in North Hollywood, California. Officers were outgunned by the two men and had to “borrow” firearms from a local gun store and an armored car from a commercial vendor. In the end, both robbers were killed. Nearly 2,000 rounds of ammunition were fired, twelve police officers and eight civilians were injured before the situation ended. This event clearly illustrated the need for police agencies to prepare for such assaults.

Much of the surplus equipment available to them has provided them with the tools necessary to protect their communities and themselves. It consists of shields, visors, helmets, and other bullet resistant equipment, including armored vehicles. All of these examples have been used frequently in facing both criminal and domestic terrorists. They are critical to Law Enforcement.

Access to this critical equipment has been dependent on who has occupied the White House. That cannot continue. Your legislation will finally and firmly recognize the need for such equipment and help to keep our communities and our public safety officers safe.

I look forward to working with you and your staff to see it signed into law.

Very Respectfully,



Sam A. Cabral

International President