



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

MICHAEL V. CRIVELLO
International Secretary-Treasurer

February 14, 2023

The Honorable Donald J. Bacon
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bacon:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, I am proud to join those who endorse and support your timely and critical legislation, H.R. 354, "To amend Title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes".

This bill broadens exemptions to Gun Free School Zones so that a qualified law enforcement officer can enjoy the same provision to carry a concealed weapon that a civilian licensed to carry a concealed weapon is permitted.

It further expands exemptions to include property used by common carriers and open to the public as well as to National Parks, where state residents licensed by that state, are frequently permitted to carry.

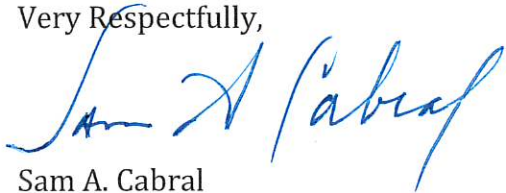
It provides for an additional exemption to magazine capacity. Many officers are trained and familiar with weapons that feature magazines with a capacity larger than is allowed by civilians in that state. This would permit them to possess and carry those weapons with which they are most familiar.

The amendment importantly allows for the expansion of qualification standards and will allow the states or the departments from which the officer retired to lengthen the time period for qualification up to 36 months. This is a critical portion of this legislation. Difficulties with the pandemic have made yearly recertification difficult or impossible for many retired law enforcement officers. Nearly every state that permits the carrying of concealed weapons by civilians requires requalification less frequently than is currently mandated for retired law enforcement officers.

All of these alterations are improvements of the current statute and will greatly benefit public safety and the men and women who ensure it.

I look forward to working with you and your staff on this critical bill. If we can provide assistance, please contact our Legislative Director, Dennis Slocumb at dslocumb@iupa.org.

Very Respectfully,



Sam A. Cabral
International President