



**INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS AFL-CIO**
THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

MICHAEL V. CRIVELLO
International Secretary-Treasurer

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Deb Fischer
The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Fischer and Cornyn:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, representing law enforcement professionals from across this great nation, including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; I am proud to endorse your thoughtful, timely, and very needed legislation, S. 546, "the Recruit and Retain Act". This bill would allow law enforcement agencies to use the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants to cover hiring costs so that officers can apply to recruitment programs more easily. The bill would help law enforcement agencies across the country that are understaffed or struggling to attract new applicants. Additionally, the bill would create a new program to encourage partnerships between local schools and police departments to foster a stronger hiring pipeline for law enforcement careers.

As you know, departments across this nation are struggling to staff their departments, creating a public safety crisis. Response times have lengthened and many departments have begun to elect to limit responses to non-emergency calls. Proactive patrols to stop crime have also diminished significantly.

Your bill will, hopefully, give departments additional resources to combat this shortage and provide quality candidates to fill these critical positions.

I look forward to working with you and your staff to see this legislation move forward.

Very Respectfully,


Sam A. Cabral
International President