



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

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

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The Honorable Jim Banks
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Banks:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, I am proud to thank you for and to endorse your legislation, H.R. 233, "To amend the Revised Statutes to codify the defense of qualified immunity in the case of any action under section 1979, and for other purposes".

Qualified immunity is necessary to protect our law enforcement officers from frivolous lawsuits. These suits are a disincentive to active policing. What it DOES NOT do is important.

It does not protect officers from liability when they willfully violate well-known constitutional protections of our nation. It did not protect officers in the George Floyd event nor the now infamous Memphis Five death.

It is well known that even judges and district attorneys have varying standards for probable cause and reasonable searches and arrests. Officers acting in good faith should not be subjected to civil lawsuits when their actions are later held to have been unconstitutional in these questionable and subjective cases. These officers often have to make split second decisions in life threatening circumstances. When later review determines that a mistake was made, their intentions, training, and good faith at the time of this decision must protect him from civil consequences; otherwise, the officer may fail to act.

Thankfully, your bill would provide that protection.

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

Very Respectfully,

Sam A. Cabral
International President