



# International Union of Police Associations

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Statement of President Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations**

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, (I.U.P.A.) I am pleased at the passage and enactment of legislation that will return the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) to its original intent.

We supported this meaningful and needed fix along with our members in Virginia. The International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, represents rank and file, active-duty law enforcement professionals across this great nation, including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Many of our members serve the communities in the Commonwealth. These brave men and women risk, and, too often give, their lives serving their communities.

This valuable program does not only benefit the families of our fallen military heroes, it benefits the families of Virginia's fallen public safety heroes as well. The new restrictions that were set forth in the most recent budget were unnecessary and would have placed undue burden on families who have already shouldered more than their share.

The Virginia House of Delegates and Senate worked cooperatively, through the leadership of Governor Youngkin, to remove the current language in the appropriation act imposing additional requirements on financial aid waivers and stipends for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program as well as related financial aid waivers, and returned it to its original intent to honor and assist the families of our fallen heroes.

This legislation illustrates what can be accomplished through the collective and cooperative work of the legislature and our public servants to improve the lives of our first responders.

We thank and acknowledge them for their efforts on behalf of these brave men and women of the Commonwealth.

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*NOTE:*

*Originally chartered in 1979, the **International Union of Police Associations** is the only chartered labor union that exclusively represents law enforcement personnel. The I.U.P.A. represents active-duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals and emergency medical personnel nationwide – including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The I.U.P.A.'s mission is to protect and advance officers' wages, benefits, and work conditions. Membership includes officers from agencies throughout the United States, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.*

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