



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL  
*International President*

MICHAEL V. CRIVELLO  
*International Secretary-Treasurer*

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
2056 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.), we unequivocally announce our strenuous opposition to **H.R. 3602**. This proposed legislation seeks to amend existing laws by eliminating the defense of qualified immunity for actions taken under Section 1979 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. § 1983). H.R. 3602 aims to increase accountability for individuals by facilitating legal action against them.

The International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, proudly represents active-duty, rank-and-file law enforcement professionals across the United States, including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. It is from this vantage point that we view H.R. 3602 as a dangerous and ill-conceived piece of legislation.

This bill would remove qualified immunity from officers, thereby exposing them to civil suits for alleged violations of constitutional rights. While the stated goal of protecting rights is noble, the determination of what constitutes a "violation" is often subject to significant judicial subjectivity. It is not uncommon for judges to disagree on the application of the law, even when presented with identical circumstances. Indeed, even the most esteemed legal minds in our nation, including those on the Supreme Court of the United States, rarely reach unanimous opinions. This inherent ambiguity places an impossible burden on officers who must make split-second decisions in high-pressure situations.

The practical consequence of this dangerous legislation would be a severe chilling effect on proactive policing. Officers, facing the constant threat of civil litigation for every action, would inevitably become hesitant to intervene, to pursue self-initiated investigations, or to

engage in the proactive measures necessary to remove criminals and dangerous contraband like guns and drugs from our communities before crimes are committed. Their primary focus would shift from protecting the public to protecting themselves, leading to a reactive policing model where law enforcement primarily responds to crimes after they have occurred. This outcome would undoubtedly endanger our communities and undermine public safety.

The I.U.P.A. urges members of Congress to oppose H.R. 3602 and to recognize the vital role qualified immunity plays in enabling law enforcement to effectively protect and serve the American people.

We look forward to working with your committee to stop this harmful legislation.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam A. Cabral". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam A. Cabral  
International President