



International Union of Police Associations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Statement of Sam A. Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations

Janice Danoff Schakowsky, a Democrat from Illinois, recently introduced **H.R. 4944**, a bill “**to end qualified immunity for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents**”. She knows full well this legislation has no chance of passing, and even if it miraculously did, it would almost certainly be vetoed. This proposal is nothing more than political theater—an attempt to appeal to the far left and to undermine the effectiveness and motivation of the officers tasked with enforcing our nation’s laws.

It is a waste of government time and resources.

Qualified immunity is a long-standing legal principle that protects law enforcement officers from frivolous lawsuits over actions and decisions made in split-second situations. It shields officers from liability stemming from subjective—and often conflicting—rulings by various courts.

The International Union of Police Associations strongly supports **H.R. 503, the Qualified Immunity Act of 2025**, which protects all officers from such baseless lawsuits and liability driven by inconsistent judicial interpretations.

Departments across the nation are already struggling to recruit and retain officers. Current personnel are being stretched thin, forced to work excessive overtime just to maintain minimum staffing levels. This shortage delays emergency response, limits backup and assistance, and reduces patrol presence—weakening the very deterrents to crime our communities rely on.

Now is not the time for politically motivated theatrics. It is the time to address a fragmented public safety system with thoughtful, effective, and meaningful action.

END

*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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