



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

MICHAEL V. CRIVELLO
International Secretary-Treasurer

January 30, 2026

Senator Ted Cruz, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Senate Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Senators:

As President of the International Union of Police Associations, I am writing to express my concerns about the deployment of autonomous vehicles in our communities. We represent rank and file active duty law enforcement professionals across this great nation, including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Autonomous vehicles present a serious and unacceptable danger at police, fire, and emergency medical scenes.

Emergency scenes are not predictable environments. They involve hand signals, verbal commands, temporary traffic patterns, flares, cones, and split-second judgment by trained responders. Autonomous systems cannot reliably interpret these conditions and cannot exercise discretion when lives are on the line.

Police officers, firefighters, and paramedics routinely work in active roadways. A vehicle that hesitates, misreads an officer's direction, or fails to recognize an evolving scene is not just a technological inconvenience, but potentially a lethal hazard.

How can a public safety officer stop one of these vehicles that is entering an area restricted because of a hazardous material, active shooter or crime scene?

When autonomous vehicles malfunction or behave unpredictably at emergency scenes, responders are forced to manage the technology instead of saving lives. That risk is unacceptable. Accountability is also unclear when autonomous systems cause injury, block emergency access, or trigger secondary crashes.

We believe that deployment of autonomous vehicles should not proceed without proven, enforceable safeguards that protect first responders and the communities they serve.

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