



International Association of
Chiefs of Police

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April 27, 2015

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
SRC-2 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Peters, Cornyn, and Graham:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our strong support for the *National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2015*. This legislation, once enacted, will allow for a long overdue comprehensive examination and report on the state of law enforcement and criminal justice in the United States.

For more than twenty years, the IACP has advocated for the creation of a commission that would follow in the footsteps of the 1965 Presidential Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. The work of that commission and the 200 recommendations it produced marked the beginning of a sea of change in our methods for dealing with crime and the public, and built the framework for many highly effective law enforcement and public safety initiatives that have been in place for the last forty years.

The commission that will be established by the *National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2015* embraces the same mission as the 1965 Commission. As clearly set forth in the legislation the commission is tasked with conducting a comprehensive examination of all aspects of the criminal justice system including, but not limited to, the prevention of crime, law enforcement, community-police relations, corrections and offender re-entry.

In conducting this critical review the commission will have the opportunity to examine and develop recommendations addressing the broad range of new and emerging challenges that confront law enforcement today, from cyber-crime to non-traditional organized crime, from violent street gangs to homeland security. In addition, the commission will also be reviewing the impact, difficulties and opportunities that are presented to the criminal justice community by technological innovations.

It is for these reasons that the IACP believes it is imperative that this legislation be approved in a timely fashion. For far too long our nation's law enforcement and criminal justice system has lacked a strategic plan that will guide an integrated public safety and homeland security effort in the years ahead.

On behalf of our nation's law enforcement executives, we applaud you for introducing this important legislation. The IACP looks forward to working with you to ensure enactment of the *National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2015*.

Thank you again for your efforts on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Beary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Chief Richard Beary
President