



**International Association of
Chiefs of Police**

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April 2, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our strong support for the *Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2013* (S. 933). This bill would reauthorize through Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program, an extremely valuable program that has assisted many law enforcement agencies in purchasing bulletproof vests for their officers.

Since its inception, the BVP Grant Program has been a critical resource for state and local law enforcement and has enabled the purchase of more than a million vests for law enforcement officers throughout the United States. According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, in FY 2012 protective vests were directly attributable to saving the lives of at least 33 law enforcement and corrections officers.

The IACP is also very supportive of the bill's requirement that all grantees comply with the mandatory wear policy that requires all uniformed patrol officers to wear an armored vest or body armor.

On behalf of our nation's law enforcement executives, we applaud you for introducing this important legislation. The IACP stands ready to assist you as we continue to work together on issues important to the law enforcement field and our communities.

Sincerely,

Chief Yousry Zakhary
President