



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS AFL-CIO

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

HUGH CAMERON
International Secretary-Treasurer



February 7, 2017

The Honorable Bill DeSteph
General Assembly Building
Room No: 306
Senate of Virginia
P. O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Senator DeSteph:

On Behalf of the more than 100,000 active duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals of the International Union of Police Associations, I am proud to add our name to those who support your thoughtful legislation, SB1474, which expands the definition of the misdemeanor crime of resisting arrest to include attempting to escape from the lawful custody of a law enforcement officer by force or violence.

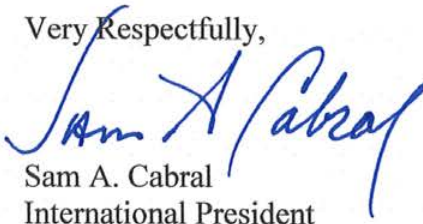
As you know, The I.U.P.A. represents hundreds of law enforcement professionals in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the Virginia Beach P.B.A. from your district.

Almost all force used by our law enforcement officers result from persons actively and physically resisting officers as they are attempting to take them into custody. These needless clashes frequently result in emotional confrontations with not only the suspect, but sometimes with observers who are not aware of the events, which precipitated the physicality of the arrest. They also sometimes result in injury to the subject, the officer or both. As the current statute stands, running away brings criminal sanctions while actively and physically resisting does not.

This legislation ends that, and is crucial to the welfare of our communities, our citizens and our law enforcement officers.

I look forward to working with you and your staff to bring this bill forward and seeing it signed into law.

Very Respectfully,


Sam A. Cabral
International President