



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

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THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, I am writing to voice our opposition to HR 1556, "To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to make certain limitations on the transfer of personal property to Federal and State agencies, and for other purposes."

We represent more than 100,000 active duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals across this great nation as well as in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Our members are on the front lines of America's first line of defense and often find themselves out-gunned by those who harm the people we are sworn to protect. One does not have to remember far back to know the absolute critical need for military equipment in confronting both terrorists and those pursuing violent criminal behavior for other reasons.

These military grade vehicles, protective vests and other equipment protect the lives of our officers as they rush into gunfire to protect our communities. An armored vehicle was utilized just this week to defend a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Station in Temple City against an armed gunman in their parking lot. They have been frequently used in hostage rescues. They were deployed to deal with the two terrorists in San Bernardino just last year. To deny law enforcement access to this equipment is to make a statement that their lives don't really matter.

I urge you to reject this short sighted and dangerous legislation and assign it to the refuse container where it most certainly belongs.

I look forward to discussing this absurd bill with you or your staff at your convenience.

Very Respectfully,

Sam A. Cabral
International President