



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS AFL-CIO

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

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International Secretary-Treasurer

February 16th, 2016

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, I am proud to add our name to those who endorse and wholeheartedly support S. 474, the **“Protect Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act”**.

As you know, the I.U.P.A. represents more than 100,000 active duty, rank and file Law Enforcement Professionals across this great nation as well as in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. We deal first hand with the aftermath of abused children.

Abused children are scarred for life. Abuse of children should never happen, and certainly, when we send our most precious youngsters to educational institutions, we should be able to be comforted that those adults with whom they interact have been properly vetted and pose no identifiable threat to them. Currently, there is no reasonable method for our school administrators to do so. It is sad that in some cases, known child molesters have been assisted by former employers in finding school employment in another state. One study indicated that child molesters in the educational system victimize over seventy children during their tenures.

This bipartisan bill requires schools receiving federal funds to perform background checks on all new and existing workers who have unsupervised access to children. This includes the substitute teachers, coaches, classroom aides, and bus drivers who are hired as contractors, and are not subject to background checks in 12 states. The background checks must be thorough, covering two state and two federal databases. It also forbids schools from hiring persons who have been convicted of certain crimes, including any violent or sexual crime against a child.

This legislation is long overdue and we applaud your efforts to keep our children safe in their schools. We look forward to working with you and your staff to bring this legislation forward.

Very Respectfully,

Sam A. Cabral
International President