



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL CRIME COMMISSION BILL

Alexandria, VA – The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is pleased to announce official support for the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2011 (S. 306). Introduced by Senator Jim Webb (D-VA), and cosponsored by 20 U.S. Senators, S. 306 seeks to account for the recent developments in the criminal justice system by creating a national criminal justice commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system, encompassing federal, state, local, and tribal criminal justice policies and practices; and make reform recommendations for the President, Congress, state, local, and tribal governments.

"I am grateful to the National Sheriffs' Association for entering into a dialogue with us about comprehensive reform of the criminal justice system and for throwing their support behind this important legislation," said Senator Jim Webb. "Law enforcement's engagement is critical to moving forward on this challenge which affects every community in the country."

The last time a commission of this magnitude convened to discuss the criminal justice system was in 1965, when President Johnson established the Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. The results of that commission provided significant recommendations for addressing crime, the criminal justice system, and public safety which are still in effect today.

"In the last 45 years, many transformations have occurred throughout the United States and within the criminal justice system, particularly with a significant shift from a solely punitive system to a move of community policing; crime prevention; rehabilitation; and reentry," stated Sheriff B.J. Roberts, President of NSA and Sheriff of Hampton City, VA. "Additionally, emerging issues in law enforcement, such as acts of terrorism and threats to homeland security, make the creation of a national commission all the more necessary to ensure law enforcement, as well as all parties, have the tools and knowledge necessary to adapt to the continually evolving justice system. The NSA commends Senator Webb on his leadership on this critical issue and we look forward to working with him to pass S. 306 during the 112th Congress."

National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is the one of the largest association of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, and a total membership of more than 20,000. NSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of criminal justice and public safety. Throughout its seventy-year history, NSA has served as an information clearinghouse for sheriffs, deputies, chiefs of police, other law enforcement professionals, state governments and the federal government.

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