



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Vicky Hartzler
U.S. House of Representatives
1023 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hartzler:

I write on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected Sheriffs nationwide to express our support for H.R. 2541, the *Police Officers Protecting Children Act*. This bill would improve the safety of our schools by permitting off-duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm in a school zone.

If a violent situation were to occur in a school or school zone, the presence of armed off-duty or retired law enforcement officers could result in a quick termination of the situation, saving the lives of school children, teachers, and bystanders. This bill allows off-duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm in a school zone if they are qualified to carry a concealed weapon under the *Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act* (18 USC 926B and 18 USC 926C). By allowing *qualified* off-duty and retired officers to carry a concealed firearm in a school zone, we are giving our schools an additional layer of security.

In closing, the National Sheriffs' Association thanks you for your efforts on the *Police Officers Protecting Children Act*; and, we look forward to working with you on this and many other issues in the future.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron D. Kennard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard
Executive Director