



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I write to express our support for the *Local Courthouse Safety Act of 2013* (S. 445).

Sheriffs are typically the officials responsible for the safety and security of local courthouses in their counties – along with their responsibilities of performing traditional law enforcement duties and operating the jails. Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been an increase in violent incidents in courthouses across the country. This violence places law enforcement officers, court personnel, and the public in harm's way. Thus, it is imperative that courthouses have adequate funding to ensure that they have the equipment necessary to provide appropriate security measures. This task is especially difficult in rural areas where financial resources are so limited.

The *Local Courthouse Safety Act of 2013* would allow states to use existing grant funds allocated under the *State Justice Institute Act of 1984* to improve local courthouse security. In addition, the legislation would give local courthouses the opportunity to request surplus federal security equipment, such as metal detectors, wands, and baggage screening machines, before that equipment is made available to any other individual or entity.

The safety and security of local courthouses is a top priority for the nation's sheriffs. Accordingly, the National Sheriffs' Association applauds the introduction of the *Local Courthouse Safety Act of 2013*, and looks forward to working with you to pass this critical legislation during the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Aaron D. Kennard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard
Executive Director