



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JOHN THOMPSON
Interim Executive Director

January 7, 2015

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

I write on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 sheriffs nationwide to express our support for the *Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2015* that you plan to introduce. This bill would reauthorize the grant program that has assisted many law enforcement agencies in purchasing bulletproof vests for their officers.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Program has been a critical resource for State and local law enforcement since its creation in 1999. More than one million bulletproof vests have been purchased in more than 13,000 jurisdictions across the country using BVP funds. According to data from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, at least 33 law enforcement and corrections officers were saved by bulletproof vests in FY2012 and BVP funds played a part in the purchase of at least 13 of those vests. The success of the BVP program has been tremendous over the years and its positive impact on our nation's communities cannot be overstated.

In closing, the National Sheriffs' Association thanks you for your efforts on the *Bulletproof Vest Grant Program Reauthorization 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 "John W. Thompson".

John W. Thompson
Interim Executive Director