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NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS FRONT AND REAR REFLECTORIZED LICENSE PLATES

WHEREAS, law enforcement officials are charged with numerous responsibilities; including the enforcement of laws that frequently involve the use of motor vehicles and other equipment;

WHEREAS, motor vehicles are used in 70 percent of all of the serious crimes committed in the United States and the quick discovery of such vehicles can help solve these crimes:

WHEREAS, traffic enforcement activities, including the proliferation of the use of automated license plate readers, have proved to be invaluable in the detection and apprehension of individuals involved in crimes and terrorist activities; all means of initial identification, including front and rear fully reflective license plates are essential;

WHEREAS, front and rear fully-reflective license plates are essential in the quick and accurate identification of motor vehicles even at highway speeds, especially since law enforcement officers often meet stolen vehicles on the highway, as well as overtaking them;

WHEREAS, front and rear fully-reflective license plates serve as a significant safety device, warning motorists of the presence of a vehicle that is disabled or that otherwise lacks sufficient headlights or taillights to be observed at a safe distance and in a timely manner;

WHEREAS, an effort to repeal the requirement for the front license plate is sometimes made in response to budgetary considerations and motor vehicle designs;

WHEREAS, if such efforts were successful, they would have a serious and negative effect on the ability of law enforcement officers to effectively identify motor vehicles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association strongly opposes deleting the requirement for the front license plates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association reaffirms its longstanding support, urging states to issue both front and rear reflectorized license plates.