



2019-08

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS DEDICATED
FEDERAL TRAFFIC SAFETY FUNDING FOR HIGH RISK VEHICLE
PURSUIT AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT**

WHEREAS, over the last decade, 1068 officers have tragically been killed in the line of duty. Of these brave officers, 577 died in crashes, almost always involving a motor vehicle¹, and;

WHEREAS, 55% of fatal officer driver crashes were while responding to a call for service², and;

WHEREAS, 60% of law enforcement involved deadly crashes involved only the law enforcement vehicle³, and

WHEREAS, more than 5,000 bystanders and passengers have been killed in law enforcement vehicle pursuits since 1979⁴, and;

WHEREAS, over an eight-year period over 70,000 law enforcement officers were injured as a result of transportation related injuries (2003-2011)⁵ and;

WHEREAS, more than 66,000 people have been injured over a nine-year period, or an estimated 7,200 annually, as a result of pursuit related activities (2004-2013)⁶ and;

WHEREAS, pursuit related vehicle crashes result in over \$1,000,000 in property damage annually⁷, and;

¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Service Division. (2016.) 2015 Law Enforcement Officers Killed & Assaulted. Retrieved from <https://ucr.fbi.gov/leoka/2015>

² California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. (2009.) POST Driver Training Study (Vol 1). (California POST Publication No. POST2008 TPS-0396). West Sacramento, CA.

³ Id.

⁴ Calderon, R. (2015, July 31). USA Today: High-Speed Police Chases Have Killed Thousands Of Innocent Bystanders. Retrieved February 23, 2018, from <http://www.news9.com/story/29678395/usa-today-high-speed-police-chases-have-killed-thousands-of-innocent-bystanders>.

⁵ Hope M. Tiesman, PhD, is a research epidemiologist, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). <https://www.policeone.com/Officer-Safety/articles/471606006-Research-review-Police-officer-nonfatal-injuries-on-the-rise/>

⁶ USA Today 2015: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/07/30/police-pursuits-fatal-injuries/30187827/>

⁷ Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (2017). Pursuit Technology Impact Assessment Final Report Version 1.1. [online] Laurel. Available at: https://www.ncjrs.gov/pd_les1/nij/grants/250549.pdf [Accessed 22 Feb. 2018].

WHEREAS, there have been \$1.4 billion in jury awarded damages resulting from high risk vehicle events from 1988-2007⁸, and;

WHEREAS, over the past 10 years, more law enforcement officers have died in traffic incidents than from any other cause, including shootings⁹, and;

WHEREAS, since 1999 the U.S. Department of Justice Bullet Proof Vest Partnership has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of \$430 million in federal funds for the purchase of over one million vests (1,294,837) as of July 2017¹⁰,

WHEREAS, the average law enforcement officer receives continuous firearms training and practice, yet on average receives a career total of 40 hours of emergency vehicle operations training early in their career, according to a 2006 Justice Department report¹¹, and;

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Justice found that pursuit technology serves as one strategy to help reduce the number of such pursuits and promote increased safety for officers and the public¹², and;

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has encouraged the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to develop a better data collection process to accurately capture the number of deaths and injuries from police pursuit and high-risk vehicle events.¹³

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the NSA Traffic Safety Committee urges Congress and the Department of Justice to create a dedicated federal funding program specifically designed to provide traffic safety training and technology equipment to mitigate high-risk vehicle events for the purpose of officer and community safety.

⁸ Iris, M. (2014). Your tax Dollars at Work! Chicago Police Lawsuit Payments: How Much, and for What? Virginia Journal of Criminal Law, 2(25), 47-48. Retrieved February 22, 2018, from <http://virginiajournalofcriminallaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/2.1-Iris-SMW-3.31.14.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.nij.gov/topics/law-enforcement/operations/traffic/Pages/welcome.aspx>

¹⁰ <https://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/>

¹¹ Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, available at, <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/slleta06.pdf> ("Nearly all academies also trained recruits in procedures related to patrol, investigations, and emergency vehicle operations with a median instruction time of 40 hours each.").

¹² <https://www.nij.gov/topics/law-enforcement/operations/traffic/Pages/study-of-gps-tracking-tool.aspx>

¹³ COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2019, at 48, available at: <https://www.congress.gov/115/crpt/hrpt704/CRPT-115hrpt704.pdf>