

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



May 8, 2026

The Honorable Josh Harder
U.S. House of Representatives
209 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Harder:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), representing 3,081 sheriffs and over 20,000 public safety professionals, we write to support the COPS Reauthorization Act of 2026.

The COPS Office has long played a vital role in supporting state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies through community policing initiatives, officer hiring programs, training, and public safety investments. Reauthorization will help ensure agencies across the country continue to have access to critical federal resources needed to recruit, retain, and support law enforcement personnel.

At a time when many agencies continue to face staffing shortages, increased operational demands, and evolving public safety challenges, sustained investment in community policing programs remains essential. This legislation reinforces the importance of the COPS Office as a dedicated and distinct entity within the Department of Justice and strengthens its ability to support local law enforcement efforts nationwide.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical public safety issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris West".

Sheriff Chris West
Canadian County, OK
President
National Sheriffs' Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Smith".

Justin Smith
Executive Director, CEO
National Sheriffs' Association