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Leading California Law Enforcement Organization Releases New Resource Outlining State and Federal Policy Priorities to Improve Policing and Public Safety

As elected officials consider legislation to improve community policing, the Peace Officers Research Association of California shares Policy Platform to encourage smart, meaningful and collaborative solutions.

Sacramento, CA — Today, the [Peace Officers Research Association of California \(PORAC\)](#) – representing over 78,000 public safety members and more than 955 associations – released its [2023 Policy Platform](#) to serve as a guide for state and federal elected leaders as they consider legislation needed to improve the practice of community policing both in California and throughout the country. As the preeminent voice of law enforcement in California in advancing the practice of law enforcement, the [Policy Platform](#) reflects 70 years of experience in advocating to improve public safety.

“Californians deserve a system where we can all work together, voice our differences, and come to the table with smart, common-sense solutions to enhance public safety and give officers the training, resources, and respect they deserve,” said **PORAC President Brian R. Marvel**. “The demonization of officers and exploiting divisions for political ends must stop. To effectively address current public safety challenges, all parties involved must acknowledge room for improvement and work together towards progress. PORAC’s promise is simple – regardless of party affiliation or the organization you represent, if you have a genuine interest in improving the law enforcement profession and the public safety of our communities, we will work with you.”

The United States is facing a public safety crisis. Understaffed, underfunded, and underappreciated law enforcement departments have had to do more with less as violent crime and murders have spiked across the U.S. Intense anti-police rhetoric over the last few years has damaged the relationship between police and the communities they serve. As a result, police jobs nationally have declined at an alarming rate – [5% between March 2020 and August 2022](#) despite the overall job market growing by 2%.

To address these critical issues, PORAC released this [Policy Platform](#) to provide a pathway for productive dialogue amongst policymakers, civil rights activists, academics, community advocates, victims’ rights organizations, and others to find workable policies and practical solutions that will help our law enforcement agencies better serve our communities.

PORAC’s [Policy Platform](#) offers the following insights into how we can effectively address the public safety challenges we are facing today to make lasting impacts both in California and nationwide, including:

- **Increasing Recruitment and Retention:** State and federal policy should focus on recruitment to ensure we license, train, and retain the best men and women – and factor diverse representation so department demographics mirror those of the communities they serve. Departments must be fully funded so they can prevent, not just respond to crime.
- **Combatting Human Trafficking & Supporting Victims:** PORAC supports classifying human trafficking appropriately as both “serious” and “violent” to have convictions qualify as a strike under the state’s

Three Strikes Law. To support victims, we must ensure they have the resources and care they need to recover and rebuild their lives.

- **Prioritizing School Safety:** PORAC supports the implementation of the [Guardian SafeSchool Program](#) to improve school safety by providing for supplemental volunteer “School Protection Officers,” in addition to School Resource Officers, who are specifically trained and equipped to protect against active shooters or mass casualty events.
- **Addressing Mental Health, Addiction & Homelessness:** PORAC supports initiatives to expand and improve the safety net for those living with mental illness, drug addiction, and/or homelessness, as well as programs to establish crisis intervention teams that imbed health care providers with peace officers.
- **Strengthening Transparency & Accountability in Policing:** We cannot allow officers who commit serious misconduct to continue as members of law enforcement. We must increase transparency to build the foundation of trust between officers and citizens.
- **Raising the Bar of Training Standards:** PORAC supports establishing national training standards, reporting requirements, consistent guidelines, and data collection for when officers are authorized to use force, and uniform requirements for de-escalation, an officer’s duty to intercede, and more.
- **Supporting the Health & Wellness of Our Officers:** PORAC supports legislation mandating provision of full medical coverage for officers’ mental health treatment, allowing retired first responders to buy into Medicare at age 57, and increased funding for mental health support and resources for first responders.

As one of the nation’s most forward-thinking and innovative public safety organizations, PORAC has a long history of collaborating with lawmakers and stakeholders to spearhead a new path forward for policing – one that advances the profession of law enforcement, repairs public trust between officers and the communities they are sworn to protect, and upholds public safety for all.

PORAC’s 2023 Policy Platform can be found here: https://porac.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-PORAC-Policy-Platform_FINAL_v2.pdf

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About the Peace Officers Research Association of California:

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) was incorporated in 1953 as a professional federation of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. PORAC represents over 78,000 public safety members and over 955 associations, making it the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest statewide association in the nation.