



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington D.C.

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

CC: The Honorable Representatives of the California Delegation to the Congress of the United States

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

I write to you today on behalf of the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), representing 77,000 public safety members in over 920 public safety associations across the state of California. We are the largest statewide organization in the United States. I want to thank you for your dedicated leadership during these challenging times dealing with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As we come together as a nation and work through this unprecedented global crisis law enforcement and our first responder partners will rise to the occasion and exceed expectations, ensuring our communities are supported during this health crisis.

COVID-19 is becoming a first responder crisis as peace officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and hospital personnel contract the virus. In just one day, San Diego County, California saw a 33% increase in new cases. Law enforcement will play a critical role during this pandemic. Peace officers are on the front-line: handling emergency calls, responding to infected or possibly infected people, and enforcing shelter in place orders. State and local law enforcement agencies need broad-based federal support to meet this moment and the needs of our first responders. The magnitude of this crisis is extraordinary and federal-state-local-tribal government coordination will be more critical than ever before.

PORAC is requesting federal resources and funding to assist state and local agencies with equipment, specifically personal protective equipment (PPE), personnel, compensation, and other costs associated with the COVID-19 health crisis. Given the advancing trajectory of this virus and its impact on our nation, we need bold, decisive, and swift action on this request. In addition, if a vaccine or other medical protocol that mitigates the effect of COVID-19 becomes available, peace officers and first responders should be among the first to receive it. This will allow first responders to keep our citizens safe and support our communities we serve.

As with all federal programs, there will be limitations, so it may become necessary for Congress to enact legislation to specifically address the needs of the law enforcement and first responder community. I would like to offer PORAC as a resource to assist in identifying these needs. What makes us unique is that we

Brian R. Marvel
President

Damon Kurtz
Vice President

Tim Davis
Treasurer

Randy Beintema
Secretary



represent a wide variety of public safety officers, such as municipal police officers, sheriff's deputies, airport officers, harbor officers, school police officers, lifeguards, and park rangers. The breadth of our knowledge and experience is far reaching, and we are eager to provide an accurate and concise picture of the reality of the COVID-19 crisis from the folks on the front line.

PORAC is committed to ensuring that the brave men and women of law enforcement are safe as they carry out their duties, and those brave men and women are dedicated to serving our communities, even and especially in this time of unprecedented global crisis. Our members, and first responders across California and the nation, stand ready to meet the challenges presented by COVID-19. We ask only that we receive the tools to do so.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at our Sacramento, California PORAC Headquarters (916) 928-3777, or contact our federal advocates in Washington at Steptoe & Johnson LLP (202) 429-6457.

Very Truly Yours,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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President

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