



April 13, 2023

The Honorable Mike Garcia
United States House of Representatives
144 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Garcia,

I write today on behalf of the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), representing more than 77,000 public safety members and 955 public safety associations across the State. PORAC is pleased to support your legislation, the *Defending Our Defenders Act* (H.R. 1627), which would make the murder of a federal, state, or local law enforcement officer a crime punishable by life in prison or death.

As our nation's peace officers continue to confront increasing crime, they also face an increasingly hostile environment. The normalization of anti-police sentiments and rising crime on our streets damaged relationships between police and the communities they serve, and helped to create an environment that is placing officers at greater risk. According to FBI data, intentional killings of law enforcement officers reached a 20-year high in 2021. This is unacceptable. Officers dedicate their lives to safeguarding our communities and we must ensure that those who seek to target them are held accountable. This bill marks a significant step towards protecting officers and the communities they serve.

PORAC sincerely appreciates your work on this legislation to support and protect law enforcement officers. We look forward to working together to push this effort forward in the 118th Congress. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the PORAC Headquarters (916) 928-3777 or contact our legislative advocates at Steptoe & Johnson LLP (202) 429-6457.

Very Truly Yours,
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