PORAC 2026 Federal Legislative Priorities

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) represents nearly 90,000 public safety professionals and more than 960 associations — the largest statewide law enforcement organization in the nation. Below are our federal priorities for the remainder of this Congress and the reasons they deserve your support.

TOP PRIORITY — SENATE ACTION NEEDED

Monitor Accountability Act (S. 4917 / H.R. 8365) brings transparency, accountability and outcome-driven standards to federal consent decree monitorships.

- ✓ **Communities pay more and get less.** Monitorships consume millions that could fund officers, training and equipment, and cities often emerge with fewer officers, longer response times and no measurable safety gain.
- ✓ **Monitors are paid for as long as compliance is not achieved.** The monitor tells the court when the job is done and bills for every year it isn't. Fee caps, appointment limits and hearings before extension correct that.
- ✓ **The process runs behind closed doors.** Monitors are selected without public notice, paid without public accounting, and answer to no one — not the city, not the department, not the residents footing the bill.
- ✓ **This creates accountability rather than detracting from it.** PORAC supports constitutional policing and real oversight; someone has to hold the monitors accountable for delivering it. DOJ's own review reached the same conclusion.

ADDITIONAL TOP FEDERAL PRIORITIES

The Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Expansion Act (H.R. 7718 / S. 3897) creates deadlines for claim decisions and authorizes interim payments when they are missed. This is a bill about delivery, not a new promise.

- ✓ **Survivors wait years for benefits earned the moment the sacrifice was made.** Eligibility is settled by the death or injury itself. Everything after that is administration.
- ✓ **Deadlines and interim payments prevent financial hardshit.** Mortgages, tuition and medical bills do not pause for a claims review.
- ✓ **It has cleared the Senate.** Supporters are pursuing the NDAA and other year-end packages. The window to finish it is now.

Combating Illicit Xylazine Act (H.R. 1266 / S. 545) schedules illicit xylazine while preserving legitimate veterinary use.

- ✓ **This is not an emerging threat – it's now.** Xylazine is increasingly mixed into the illicit fentanyl supply, and because it is not an opioid, naloxone does not reverse its effects.
- ✓ **It closes an enforcement gap that traffickers are exploiting.** Scheduling gives investigators and prosecutors a charge that matches the conduct, while protecting lawful veterinary access.
- ✓ **Acting early costs far less than catching up.** Tracking requirements show how fast xylazine is spreading — before it is entrenched.

HELPER Act (H.R. 2094 / S. 978) creates a no-down-payment home loan program for first responders, modeled on the VA Home Loan Program.

- ✓ **The barrier is the down payment, not the mortgage payment.** Officers can carry a monthly payment; they cannot save six figures while paying California rents. The VA loan solved exactly this.
- ✓ **Officers who live where they serve strengthen public safety and trust.** Housing costs push officers into hour-long commutes on top of 12-hour shifts.
- ✓ **It builds on what Congress just accomplished.** The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act addressed supply; affordability remains the gap.

Providing Child Care for Police Officers Act (H.R. 3304 / S. 2337) helps agencies provide or expand childcare for officers on nontraditional schedules.

- ✓ **Childcare built for 6-to-6, Monday through Friday does not work for police schedules.** Officers work nights, weekends, holidays and 12-hour shifts — exactly when care disappears.
- ✓ **$24 million a year is a rounding error; losing officers is not.** Less than 0.0004% of federal spending, and less than many mid-size departments spend on overtime in a year. Replacing one officer costs six figures.
- ✓ **Bipartisan from introduction.** A capped pilot from Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) with original Republican cosponsors.

THE NEED TO MOVE THESE BILLS THIS CONGRESS

Every one of these bills is a staffing bill. On-time benefits, homeownership, childcare that fits a patrol schedule and oversight that doesn't push officers out — four fixes to the same shortage, plus the tools for a more dangerous drug supply.

All five are bipartisan and moving. One passed the House, two cleared Senate committees, two keep adding cosponsors — and the lame duck is the last real window.

No significant price tags. A capped pilot, a loan program inside the existing mortgage framework, benefits Congress already authorized, and monitor reform that saves money.

WHERE EACH BILL STANDS & OUR ASK

Monitor Accountability Act	Passed the House; awaiting Senate consideration	Cosponsor and advance in the Senate
PSOB Expansion Act	Passed the Senate; year-end vehicles in play	Support final passage this year
Combating Illicit Xylazine Act	Passed the House. Passed Senate Judiciary.	Support final passage this Congress
HELPER Act	Growing bipartisan support in both chambers	Cosponsor, if you have not already
Providing Child Care for Police Officers Act	Bipartisan support growing; DOJ study directed by House CJS report language	Cosponsor and help advance