



For Immediate Release:

May 14, 2026

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PORAC Applauds House Passage of Monitor Accountability Act

Calls It Major Step Toward Reforming Broken Federal Police Consent Decree System

SACRAMENTO, CA — The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) today applauded the passage of the Monitor Accountability Act (H.R. 8365) in the U.S. House of Representatives, calling the legislation a major step toward bringing accountability, transparency and meaningful oversight reform to the federal police consent decree system.

PORAC has been a primary leader in championing the reforms embodied in H.R. 8365 for more than a year, including limits on monitor fees, public transparency requirements, restrictions on prolonged monitorships, public participation in monitor selection, judicial case transfer requirements, and stronger standards governing the continuation or termination of federal oversight.

“When cities hemorrhage officers, when response times collapse, when recruitment standards erode because a department needs warm bodies just to survive — all while unelected monitors collect millions, answer to no one, and call it oversight — something is fundamentally wrong with that system,” said PORAC President Brian R. Marvel. “We applaud Representative Biggs and look forward to carrying this fight into the Senate and finishing what we started.”

The bill’s advancement follows more than a year of sustained advocacy by PORAC to elevate the failures of the current consent decree system at the national level. Over the past year, PORAC engaged directly with House and Senate judiciary committees, submitted testimony entered into the congressional record, and released a comprehensive national research report examining the real-world consequences of prolonged consent decrees on staffing, morale, public safety and local governance.

PORAC also helped elevate the issue directly with Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Harmeet K. Dhillon through multiple discussions over the last year. Shortly after the initial discussion, the Civil Rights Division moved to close several long-running consent decrees, signaling growing recognition within the DOJ itself that the current oversight model requires significant reform.

“PORAC didn’t wait for the next department to get trapped in a decade-long failed federal monitorship. We moved early, developed solutions, and helped drive the national reform agenda before the crisis reached the next community,” added Marvel.

PORAC’s March 2026 report, [Evaluating Police Consent Decrees: From Compliance to Results](#), documented how many modern consent decrees have evolved into expensive, open-ended oversight structures that often prioritize procedural box-checking over measurable public safety outcomes. The report highlighted how some jurisdictions have spent hundreds of millions of dollars under federal oversight while simultaneously experiencing staffing declines, worsening response times, and increases in violent crime.

Among the reforms included in H.R. 8365 are:

- Caps and transparency requirements for monitor compensation and expenditures;
- Limits on monitor appointments and repeated assignments;

- Public notice and comment requirements before monitor appointments;
- Judicial reassignment provisions after extended periods of oversight; and
- New hearing requirements before a monitorship may be extended or revised.

Marvel emphasized that while House passage represents significant progress, additional work remains ahead in the United States Senate.

“This legislation still faces hurdles ahead, and PORAC remains committed to working with federal lawmakers to ensure these reforms are enacted into law,” Marvel said. “Accountability and constitutional policing matter deeply to our profession and the communities we serve. But oversight systems must also be transparent, outcome-driven, financially responsible and accountable to the public.”

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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 nearly 90,000 public safety members and over 960 associations, making it the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest statewide association in the nation.