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Statement from California's Largest Peace Officer Organization Regarding Legislative Hearing on Public Safety and Mental Health

Sacramento, CA: The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), representing more than 67,000 public safety members and 910 associations, commends today's thorough legislative hearing regarding law enforcement interactions with the mentally ill.

"There is no more difficult job than being a peace officer and the situations we encounter are varied and dangerous. However, our number one concern is the safety and wellbeing of every person in our communities," said PORAC President Mike Durant.

"We appreciate the thoughtful and in-depth discussion that took place at Assemblymembers Sebastian Ridley-Thomas and Reggie Jones-Sawyer's hearing today, calling for all of us to work together to protect those with mental health concerns," continued Durant. "Since 1953, PORAC has worked to develop public policy to ensure the adequate training of peace officers in any situation they may face and we realize that incidents with the mentally ill provide their own unique challenges. As the largest public safety organization in California and the largest statewide association in the nation, PORAC remains committed to continuing these efforts. The safety of our communities is of the utmost concern to PORAC's 67,000 members and we thank the members of both committees for their dedication to working with officers on the streets to find positive solutions moving forward."

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) was incorporated in 1953 as a professional federation of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Today, PORAC represents over 67,000 public safety members and over 910 associations, making it the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest statewide association in the nation.

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