



# SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

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February 1, 2024

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman,  
Committee on Oversight & Accountability  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member,  
Committee on Oversight & Accountability  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Representative Raskin:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department (SBA) to advise you of our support for H.R. 5798, the "Protecting Our Nation's Capital Emergency Act." This legislation will fully restore the collective bargaining and due process rights for officers of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) that were eliminated by D.C.'s Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 (CPJRAA).

It is no secret that our nation has experienced an unfortunate rise in anti-police sentiment in recent years and a corresponding increase in violent crime and attacks against police officers. This has been fed in no small part by local officials who have sought to simultaneously advance pro-criminal policies and eliminate the same hard won civil service protections for police that are typically available to all other public employees. Unsurprisingly, the trifecta of anti-police sentiment, soft on crime policies, and rising crime rates has led to a crisis in recruiting and retaining police officers in agencies across the country. In our nation's capital, the MPD has reportedly lost over 1,200 members since 2020 and staffing levels are the lowest they have been in over 50 years.

The "Protecting Our Nation's Capital Emergency Act" recognizes the harmful impact that the CPJRAA has had on the District's law enforcement officers and public safety. It is a logical next step following President Biden's veto of the congressional resolution (H.J. Res. 42) disapproving of the CPJRAA in its entirety, which passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support last year. Given Congress' inability to override this veto, we appreciate you advancing H.R. 5798 to restore the ability of MPD officers to bargain over disciplinary procedures and the requirement that the department initiate disciplinary actions against officers within 90 business days. As section (2)(b) makes clear, this legislation will eliminate the provisions of the CPJRAA that place law enforcement officers at risk and discourage them from serving by ensuring that they will be treated equitably and fairly. We therefore urge the Committee to expeditiously approve this legislation and fully restore the collective bargaining and due process rights of MPD officers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our views on this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact our Washington representatives, Andrew Siff or Chris Granberg, at (202) 457 – 7756 if you would like to further discuss.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vincent Vallelong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Vincent Vallelong  
President