

Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for having me here today.

I come before you during Police Week to speak in support of my bill H.R. 309, the National Law Enforcement Officers Remembrance, Support and Community Outreach Act, which has been referred to this committee. To the 13 members of the committee who have cosponsored this legislation, I thank you for your support.

Congress created both the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and the National Law Enforcement Museum to honor and support the law enforcement community and educate the public about the vital importance of law enforcement in a democratic society.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund is the only national law enforcement organization created by Congress, and both the Memorial and the Museum were built with private dollars.

Unlike other museums created by Congress, the National Law Enforcement Museum receives zero federal dollars for its programming. The life-saving and educational programs of the National Law Enforcement Museum are just as crucial to the nation as other museums that receive federal support from the Department of Interior.

My bill would provide that support by establishing a formal program within the Department of Interior to support and enhance the community outreach, public education and officer safety and wellness programs of the National Law Enforcement Museum through grants to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

These programs would memorialize and honor law enforcement, compile data on law enforcement fatalities and injuries, increase public understanding of and support for law enforcement, enhance and improve law enforcement officer safety and wellness, and bring law enforcement closer to the communities they serve.

I look forward to working with the committee on a path forward on this important legislation and yield back the balance of my time.