



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

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Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Bd.

DWAYNE CRAWFORD
Executive Director

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
Rayburn House Office Building, 2056
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Committee on Judiciary
Rayburn House Office Building, 2242
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andy Biggs
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime
Cannon House Office Building, 464
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lucy McBath
Ranking Member
Committee on Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime
Rayburn House Office Building, 2246
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, Chairman Biggs, and Ranking Member McBath:

Nearly 50 years ago, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) was founded "to ensure equity in the administration of justice in the provision of public service to all communities, and to serve as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action." NOBLE is writing to respectfully ask that we work collectively to pass HR 2189, the Law Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act of 2025, to update outdated laws to ensure we have the tools necessary to protect our communities and achieve our equitable justice mission.

Currently, certain Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) are expected to be inappropriately classified by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) as "firearms" due to how the devices propel an object under the definition outlined in the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA). This is because the latest model of the TASER involves projectiles that are expelled directly by a primer instead of by compressed air, causing the action to be referred to as an explosion. This latest technology, which was not around in 1968 when the GCA was first passed, is what causes the misclassification of the devices.

This interpretation would prohibit our nation's law enforcement from utilizing the field's most innovative, less-lethal CEWs such as TASERs. Changing the definition of a firearm under the GCA to exclude TASERs and other less-lethal weapons could save lives.

In the line of duty, officers utilize CEWs to de-escalate a situation and temporarily subdue threats while limiting the risk of bodily harm. CEWs can help build trust within our communities and keep officers and our communities safe. NOBLE knows this well from its first-hand experience. Our 60 chapters and over 4,800 members view lifesaving, less-lethal technologies like TASERs as integral to their day-to-day work.

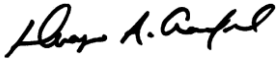
NOBLE WORLD HEADQUARTERS

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This new legislation takes into account the risk of devices that can be modified into lethal firearms falling under the new classification and has added additional, stringent criteria. These criteria screen out any lethal firearms and any devices that could be readily converted into a lethal firearm – ensuring that only true less-than-lethal devices are included in the new classification as approved by the DOJ.

We urge you to take a step forward to protecting our communities by giving HR 2189 full consideration and updating the GCA to ensure law enforcement has access to the best technologies possible. Failure to do so could potentially harm law enforcement and our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwayne A. Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dwayne" being more prominent.

Dwayne A. Crawford
Executive Director
NOBLE