



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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March 2, 2011

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), I am writing to express our support for the See Something, Say Something Act of 2011.

As you may know, the National Sheriffs' Association is the creator of the Neighborhood Watch Program which is one of the oldest and best-known citizen and law enforcement based crime prevention concepts in the United States. In the late 1960s, an increase in crime heightened the need for a crime prevention initiative focused on residential areas involving local citizens. We responded, creating the National Neighborhood Watch Program in 1972 to assist citizens and law enforcement.

For nearly four decades, particularly after the terrorist attacks in 2001, the nation's sheriffs have witnessed firsthand, citizens becoming more empowered by becoming active in homeland security efforts through participation in Neighborhood Watch. Thus, we understand and recognize the importance of encouraging citizen involvement and the role they play in ensuring homeland security.

The proposed measure would build on this concept by providing the needed legal protections to individuals who report suspicious activity to an authorized official, in good faith, that might reflect terrorist threats. Additionally, it would provide qualified immunity from civil liability for an authorized official who takes reasonable action in good faith to respond to the reported activity.

We thank you for your continued leadership and support of the nation's emergency responders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B.J. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Sheriff B.J. Roberts
President