



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Capps:

I write on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 Sheriffs nationwide to express our support for the *School Safety Enhancements Act of 2013*. This bill would bring back the successful Secure Our Schools grant program administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

The Secure Our Schools grant program provided funding between 2002 and 2011 for law enforcement agencies to partner with schools by helping to cover the costs of student and staff training; crime prevention equipment; and security-related capital improvements. Your bill would reauthorize that program for ten years with annual appropriations of \$40 million. It would also allow the funds to be used for additional purposes, such as purchasing security cameras and creating tip lines. Finally, it would create a task force between the Departments of Justice and Education to develop advisory school safety guidelines. In the wake of the shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, we can all agree that ensuring the safety of our schools is of the utmost importance. This grant program offers schools and law enforcement agencies an additional tool in trying to ensure that safety.

In closing, the National Sheriffs' Association thanks you for your efforts on the *School Safety Enhancements Act of 2013*; and, we look forward to working with you on this and many other issues in the future.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron D. Kennard".

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard
Executive Director