



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON
Executive Director

November 3, 2015

The Honorable Chris Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 sheriffs across the country, I write to you today in support of H.R. 2189, the "Walter Patterson and Werner Foerster Justice and Extradition Act." Passage of this bill is an important step toward improving the failing and opaque U.S. international extradition policy that has enabled countless fugitives wanted in the United States to evade justice for far too long.

All over the world, we see indications of serious problems with U.S. international extradition policy. Mexico refuses to extradite known killers of law enforcement officers. Cuba has long harbored notorious killers of police officers JoAnne Chesimard and Charles Hill. Cuba also fosters a "revolving door" of white-collar criminality—fraudsters and drug traffickers exploit legislation to shuttle between Cuba and the United States. Finally, Portugal has refused to extradite George Wright, a prison escapee convicted for the murder of Walter Patterson and sought also for international air piracy, now living openly in Portugal.

We strongly believe that U.S. fugitives must face U.S. justice. The numerous wanted criminals living abroad are an affront to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our community as law enforcement officers and to the family and friends of officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

In closing, the National Sheriffs' Association thanks you for your efforts on this issue. I look forward to working with you to ensure passage of the "Walter Patterson and Werner Foerster Justice and Extradition Act" and on many other issues in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan F. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathan F. Thompson