



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

July 6, 2012

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

I write on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 Sheriffs nationwide to express our support for the *Child Protection Act of 2012*. NSA was also a supporter of the current law, *PROTECT our Children Act of 2008*, which the *2012 Act* will amend with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses.

Specifically, NSA supports the *Act's* increase in the maximum penalty, from 10 to 20 years, for perpetrators whose offense involves prepubescent minors or minors under the age of 12, as well as the enhanced penalties for witness intimidation in certain crimes against children offenses. NSA also supports the *Act's* provisions to give the U.S. Marshals Service express administrative subpoena authority to facilitate fugitive investigations of unregistered sex offenders. In addition, we are in support of removing the \$2 million annual cap on training to Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Forces; and for the Justice Department to award such funding based upon the trainings needs of the ICAC Task Forces. Furthermore, NSA supports the *Act's* clarification that the National Coordinator for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction be a position in the Senior Executive Service. And, we support extending the current authorization level of \$60 million a year for ICAC Task Forces for an additional 5 years through Fiscal Year 2018. Finally, NSA supports the *Act's* clarification of the term "high priority suspect" in the National Internet Crimes Against Children Data System (NIDS), and the provision regarding the Attorney General's submission of a report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees on the status of the Department's implementation of the NIDS system.

In closing, NSA thanks you for all your efforts to reauthorize the *PROTECT Act* so that law enforcement can better prevent and investigate these crimes committed against our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Amerson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Larry Amerson, 2012-2013 President
National Sheriffs' Association