

# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



January 13, 2025

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Buchanan:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), representing 3,081 sheriffs and over 20,000 public safety professionals - including deputies, chiefs of police, and other law enforcement officials across the United States – we write to support the Thin Blue Line Act.

This legislation is critical in addressing the escalating violence against law enforcement and public safety officers. First responders always faced inherent dangers in their line of duty, but in recent years—and particularly in today's climate—they have increasingly become targets of violence solely because of the uniform they wear.

The Thin Blue Line Act proposes an essential amendment to 18 U.S.C. § 3592, which outlines the mitigating and aggravating factors considered in death penalty determinations. This bill would expand those protections to include the murder or attempted murder of local or state law enforcement officers, prosecutors, firefighters, or other public safety officers.

By broadening these statutory aggravating factors, this legislation underscores the grave consequences of targeting those who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. It provides a necessary and overdue acknowledgment of the risks they face daily, ensuring that those who commit such heinous acts are held fully accountable under the law.

We thank you for your continued dedication to public safety and your steadfast support for the nation's sheriffs and law enforcement community. The NSA stands ready to assist in advancing this critical legislation to safeguard the lives of those who protect and serve.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Sheriff Kieran Donahue.

Sheriff Kieran Donahue  
Canyon County, Idaho  
President  
National Sheriffs' Association

A blue ink signature of Jonathan Thompson.

Jonathan Thompson  
Executive Director, CEO  
National Sheriffs' Association