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May 7, 2025

The Honorable Don Bacon  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1024 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bacon,

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our support for the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA) Reform Act (H.R. 2243).

As you are aware, in 2004, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act, a bill to ensure that police officers could carry concealed firearms across state lines. Prior to the passage of this law, a police officer traveling from their home state to a neighboring state could find themselves in violation of criminal law simply because they did not possess a firearm permit valid in that jurisdiction. Recognizing these legal and safety challenges, Congress swiftly passed a law to ensure qualified active and retired officers could carry without needing separate state licenses.

Since LEOSA was enacted, many states have introduced new firearm restrictions that again put police officers at risk of criminal liability. Several states now limit magazine capacity, despite many officers being issued magazines that exceed these limits only by a few. Others have passed laws barring the carrying of firearms in "sensitive areas" or "restricted places," including parks, public transportation, and entertainment venues. These are the very spaces where police presence can be most critical, particularly in the event of an active threat. Unfortunately, LEOSA in its current form does not offer adequate protection in these situations.

The LEOSA Reform Act addresses these issues directly. The bill amends title 18 of the United States Code to clarify that qualified police officers are exempt from the Gun-Free School Zones Act, permits carry in certain public federal facilities, and ensures that firearm qualification standards are more accessible, while still maintaining high training standards. It also clarifies that standard-issue magazines are covered under LEOSA protections.

While we support H.R. 2243, we believe there is still room for improvement within LEOSA. The IACP believes that LEOSA should ensure that the phrase "service with a public agency as a law enforcement officer" includes service as a state certified police officer covered under 49 US 28101.

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West University Place, TX,  
Police Department

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**Deputy Executive Director/  
Chief Operating Officer**  
Terrence M. Cunningham  
Alexandria, VA

We appreciate your continued leadership on this issue and your commitment to the safety of those who serve. The IACP supports H.R. 2243 and looks forward to working with you as the bill moves forward in Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken A. Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken A. Walker  
IACP President