The Honorable Steve Scalise  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Scalise:

On behalf of Louisiana’s 64 sheriffs and the over 14,000 deputies they serve, I am honored to write in strong support H.R.3170, the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act, introduced by Representatives John Rutherford (R-FL) and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ).

As you know, housing prices continue to increase along with the cost of ownership as Louisiana is projected to see homeowner insurance policies jump an estimated 63% this year. Too often, our deputies struggle to afford their first home. The HELPER Act would create a home loan program within the Federal Housing Administration to help Louisiana law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and pre-K-12 teachers by making homeownership more affordable.

The HELPER Act program will function similarly to the home loan program managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Managed by the Federal Housing Administration, it will allow law enforcement officers, fire fighters, EMTs, paramedics, and pre-K-12 teachers to obtain a low-interest, fully insured home loan with no down payment and no monthly mortgage insurance costs for a first-time home purchase.

We are proud to stand with our partners in public safety and public service like police, firefighters and teachers who would also benefit from the HELPER Act. We believe they have earned access to affordable housing so that they can provide for their families and continue to serve their communities. Thank you for your continued efforts in support of Louisiana’s law enforcement community. We look forward to working with you to ensure this critical legislation’s enactment.

Sincerely,

Michael Ranatza  
Executive Director