



## Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs

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January 17, 2017

Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan,

I am writing because I have learned you recently met with members of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) regarding their “guidelines” on police use of force. Those guidelines have been roundly criticized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police as dangerous and naive proposals which will endanger the life and safety of law enforcement.

In the United States, we don't accept new ideas, policy, or legislation by fiat. Instead, whether it be debates between candidates for elected office, a discussion about proposed legislation or an initiative put before voters, ideas are vetted before being enacted. The PERF guidelines were **not** the product of robust debate or discussion, but instead agenda driven. Those who attempted to question the guidelines before adoption were simply ignored by PERF executives, who allowed no dissent to their proposals. The same brushoff of law enforcement continued after the guidelines were adopted; for example, Chuck Wexler, PERF's Executive Director, refused multiple invitations to discuss the guidelines with members of Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs.

Rather than discuss PERF's ideas with the people who would be directly affected, PERF would rather spend its time selling their ideas on use of force to elected officials, reporters, editorial boards-and now Congress. As you are aware, in the last legislative session, Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Wis) introduced a bill mandating that all police departments in the United States adopt several of PERF's “principles.” It is very telling that Mr. Wexler can spare time to talk to the media, trumpeting, “This bill ... is at the heart of what we've been suggesting: that police training has to change,” but not spare any time to come to discuss PERF's ideas with rank and file deputies and officers.

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Congress needs to know, and we join organizations such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police in stating, that Mr. Wexler ideas are dangerous and unproven. We are more than willing to have a spirited debate on Mr. Wexler ideas-why won't he do the same?

It is vital that organizations representing the overwhelming number of management and rank and file law enforcement who oppose the PERF guidelines be heard from before any serious consideration can be given to those guidelines.

Please let me know if I can assist in any way in arranging a meeting with you and the leaders of these organizations.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RH", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Hernandez, President  
Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs