



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

February 19, 2008

SHERIFF CRAIG WEBRE
President

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The Honorable Thomas R. Caltagirone
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Room 106, Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2103

Chairman Caltagirone and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of more than 3,000 of America's Sheriffs I thank you for taking up what has become a critical question not only for law enforcement in your fine State, but for all residents of Pennsylvania. House Bill #466 will erase all questions and ambiguities once and for all relating to the enforcement abilities of Pennsylvania Sheriffs and the National Sheriffs' Association hereby offers its unequivocal support for HB466.

Across America, Sheriffs are seen as the preeminent law enforcers in the majority of counties and parishes, and, as partners with others who wear the badge whether they are municipal officers, highway patrol or State police. This was also the case in Pennsylvania until the decision was made to move away from Common Law to Statutory Law. Somehow Sheriffs were lost in the legislative process.

I can assure you the law abiding citizens of Pennsylvania, however, do not draw a distinction when it comes to which badge can or will do the job of protecting them and their families. They understandably look at the person, no matter what color the uniform, as one who will protect their communities against violent crime and drugs. Pennsylvania Sheriffs and their Deputies take their duties quite seriously and are willing to risk their lives protecting and serving. As long as those officers are properly trained, in my humble opinion, there should be no distinction.

Ironically, it appears that the criminals have helped to bring this issue to the forefront. The Pennsylvania Courts, because of a loophole, have recently released some dangerous people back into your communities because of a technicality that you now have the ability to clarify once and for all. As President of the National Sheriffs' Association, I urge you on behalf of the men, women and children of Pennsylvania to take a stand against those who would put your families in jeopardy. Please vote for House Bill #466.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Webre".

Craig Webre
Sheriff
NSA President

CC: Mr. Ronald Rucker
Mr. Daniel Rosenblatt
Chief Michael Carroll
The Honorable Craig A. Dally
Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association