



Colorado Association of
Chiefs of Police



February 9, 2022

Dear members,

The Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, Colorado Fraternal Order of Police, and County Sheriffs of Colorado are working together as a unified voice on public safety and law enforcement policies at the state Capitol, with elected officials, and in the media. It is critical in the wake of past legislative changes and the anti-law enforcement sentiment over the past few years that our organizations and members stand together to hold politicians—from the governor through local officials—accountable for their decisions affecting public safety and law enforcement.

As you may know, crime is a significant topic at the General Assembly and within Governor Polis's administration—and many bills are expected this session that address public safety. While some of the proposed legislative and funding changes may seem positive for law enforcement, our associations have questions and concerns about several proposals and the lack of attention paid to the consequences of recent policy decisions.

The governor and legislators must recognize how recent legislation and policy changes have directly contributed to crime rates and struggles to recruit and retain officers. Legislators have passed laws that make crime prevention more difficult, including reforms to bail and personal recognizance bonds that prioritize offenders over victims and public safety. The inability to arrest hold offenders results in offenders continuing to commit criminal acts, often escalating the severity of their crimes, and putting victims in fear of becoming revictimized. Further, confusing and rapidly changing legislative standards on policing has caused officers to question what they can and cannot do to address a threat, protect victims and the community, and protect themselves in violent situations.

Collectively, we are committed to:

- Elevating a revisit, based upon the data, of the very policies that are contributing factors to the increased crime across all our communities across the state
- Addressing policies and narratives that have resulted in a climate that discourages public service in law enforcement, hindering recruitment and retention of qualified and seasoned professionals
- Supporting budget proposals that provide sustainable, ongoing funding commitments to address core needs like training, recruitment, and wellness programs
- Opposing unfunded mandates on policing procedures, reporting, equipment, and other issues that effectively remove funding from law enforcement and reduce the ability to have officers in the community
- Ensuring approaches to address crime and policing factor in the unique needs of Colorado's urban and rural communities

When addressing our state's public safety, we implore the Governor and the state legislature to consider both policy modifications and budgetary needs. These are not mutually exclusive.

The Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, Colorado Fraternal Order of Police, and County Sheriffs of Colorado will not support legislation that violates these principles. At present, our organizations do not have an official position of support on the governor's public safety budget package in its entirety due to its

failure to advance policy changes alongside ongoing budgetary proposals. We ask that you stand together with our associations as we review proposed legislation to determine our official positions.

If you are approached to support legislation or policy changes at the state Capitol, please contact your association first to understand the coalition's position, as well as our efforts to communicate that position to the governor, lawmakers, the media, and the public.

We appreciate your support of this unified approach to law enforcement and public safety legislation. By working together, we can start the process of returning balance to the dialogue and policy decisions impacting public safety here in Colorado.

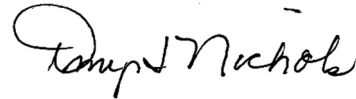
Sincerely,



Gregory M. Knott
President, CACP



Stephen Schulz
President, Colorado FOP



Amy J Nichols
Executive Director, CSOC