

April 29, 2008

This letter was sent to Speakers of the House and Senate Presidents in 49 states.

Dear:

National Police Week, May 11 through 17, is quickly approaching and law enforcement agencies across the nation will be observing the week in various ways. This May America will honor 191 fallen officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2007. Their surviving families will travel to Washington, DC, for national events that will honor and remember these fallen heroes.

It is time, however, to do more than honor those brave souls that have been forced to make the supreme sacrifice. We must also take steps to **reduce** the number of law enforcement deaths in America. "The Trey Hutchison Act", a copy of which is enclosed, reflects what every state can do to protect officers as they put their lives on the line in our communities. In 2005, the Louisiana Legislature passed House Bill No. 88, "The Trey Hutchison Act", and the Governor signed the bill into law that same year. This bill requires individuals who have been found guilty of violent offenses against peace officers to register with and provide their place of residence to the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. Having this information available provides additional warnings to law enforcement officers responding to calls at addresses where individuals who have acted out against law enforcement officers may be residing.

The "unknown" risk is one of the greatest dangers to law enforcement officers responding to a call. Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hutchison of Bossier City, Louisiana, truly believe their son Trey's life could have been saved had he been forewarned of the violent nature of the individual that resided at the residence of a 911 hang-up call involving a suicidal male subject. Officer Hutchison arrived at the scene and was ambushed as he walked to the door of the residence. The suspect shot him twice in the back with a shotgun.

By establishing this registry within your state, law enforcement officers could be made aware of the increased danger of an individual when responding to a call. They would know that someone who has attacked a law enforcement officer is residing at that address.

Following a year when 191 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty, Concerns of Police Survivors and the 15,000 surviving families who comprise our membership implore you to introduce this bill in your legislature, pass it, have your Governor sign it, and begin the process of protecting our law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line for us each and every day. Their families will be very appreciative.

Sincerely,

Suzie Sawyer
Executive Director