



## American Security TASK FORCE

### **HOUSE REPUBLICANS:**

#### **SUPPORTING OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Law enforcement officers across the country are facing the toughest working conditions in years. Many are opting to take early retirement or pursue other careers due to the difficult nature of the job and lack of support from elected officials. The safety and stability of our local communities depend on supported law enforcement.*

The American Security Task Force (ASTF) focuses on border security, cyber security, and law enforcement. In 2021, members on the ASTF hosted law enforcement roundtables across the country – including visits to New York City, NY; Syracuse, NY; Jacksonville, FL; Austin, TX; Portland, OR; Chicago, IL; Indianapolis, IN; and Washington, DC – hearing from law enforcement agencies on the most pressing issues facing them. The roundtables informed the work of ASTF in soliciting and producing legislative initiatives for House Republicans to enact in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. The following framework has broad support among Republican Members and would be prioritized in a Republican-led House of Representatives.

- ◇ **Support and FUND the Police.** Law enforcement deserves a House majority that has their backs. We must make sure police departments have the resources necessary to do their job without increasing federal control over local enforcement.
- ◇ **Tackle Recruitment and Retention Issues.** Police departments across the country are struggling to recruit new officers to fill open positions. A nationwide survey from June 2021 found departments are 7% short of filling budgeted positions. This amounts to over 46,000 law enforcement officers nationwide. Some cities face shortages as high as 17%. Retirements nationwide were up by 45% in 2021. Congress should make available and increase resources to provide retention and recruitment bonuses up to \$5,000 to law enforcement officers to mitigate this challenge.
- ◇ **Address Crime Against Officers.** It is becoming more dangerous than ever to serve as an officer with targeted offenses against law enforcement on the rise. In 2021, a record number – 73 – officers were killed in the line of duty. In 2022, 123 officers have been shot, 19 of whom died from gunfire. We must hold those who commit a crime against a police officer accountable. Targeting an officer should never be permitted and those who commit these heinous acts should be punished. House Republicans will take action to protect officer safety.
- ◇ **Ensure Transparency from Progressive Prosecutors.** Progressive prosecutors hold office in cities that represent over 20% of the nation's population. At their direction, prosecutor offices are refusing to prosecute crimes, tying the hands of law enforcement, and contributing to a culture of lawlessness. For instance, last year, the LA sheriff's department made arrests, conducted investigations, and presented evidence to prosecutors in 13,238 cases that the District Attorney's office later rejected because of a "special directive," – a series of politically-motivated directives issued by the Los Angeles District Attorney after he took office to advance progressive policies related to what crimes are to be prosecuted – not for lack of evidence. Greater transparency must be required from prosecutors who received federal grant dollars and federal funds should not be used to subsidize prosecutors who refuse to do their jobs.