

# HELPING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Whether at violent protests like we witnessed across the country this past summer or on regularly scheduled patrol duty, law enforcement officers often put on their uniforms to respond to a number of different situations with no guarantee they will return home safely. They take an oath to protect and defend their communities, and they do so with pride.

Over the past several years, I have had many opportunities to meet with police officers, sheriffs, and first responders across Central Washington. I am constantly in awe of the work these men and women are doing to engage with families in need, at-risk children and students, and individuals in danger. They do all of this with the goal of making our Central Washington communities a better, safer place to live and work, and for that, I am grateful.

## POLICE REFORM

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**H.R. 677, Just and Unifying Solutions To Invigorate Communities Everywhere (JUSTICE) Act of 2021** – I cosponsored this bill, which aims to increase law enforcement transparency, accountability, and performance so our nation's law enforcement officers are better prepared to protect and care for their communities. Rather than partisan legislation advanced by Democrats that will never become law, this bill included provisions that have earned bipartisan support in the past, including: increasing the number of body cameras; emphasizing community reflective recruitment, ensuring the makeup of police departments more closely resembles the communities they serve; restoring investment in community policing to help build trust between officers and the communities they serve; and investing in improved police training with an emphasis on de-escalation and duty to intervene.

## ENFORCING LAW & ORDER

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**H.R. 1690, Defending our Defenders Act** – I cosponsored this bill which would make murder of a state or local law enforcement officer a federal crime punishable by life in prison or the death penalty. Under this bill, a cop-killer could receive a life sentence, or the death penalty, if certain aggravating factors are met, including: intent to ambush a police officer, prior statements advocating or promoting violence against law enforcement, participation or affiliation with anarchist or other violence promoting groups, prior threats against law enforcement, or if the murder occurred during organized anti-law enforcement activity. An attack on law enforcement is an attack on against the community that officer is sworn to protect and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

## SMART SOLUTIONS

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**Law Enforcement Working Group** – In response to radical bills introduced by Democrats in Congress as well as in Olympia that aim to defund police departments and make it harder for police to serve their communities, I established a Law Enforcement Working Group comprised of police chiefs and sheriffs from across our district. This group meets regularly and opens a line of thoughtful and respectful conversation relating to policing in Central Washington and how legislation being discussed in Congress would affect their ability to keep their communities safe. I firmly believe that any meaningful reforms to our nation's policing policies will come from the local level, which is why this dialogue is invaluable.