



June 7, 2010

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
459A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

Recently, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid offered the text of S. 3194, the **Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act**, as an amendment to another bill. The amendment did not pass.

Senator Reid has indicated he hopes to bring the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act to a vote by offering it again as an amendment to another bill the Senate will consider before July 4.

We are writing to request that you use your considerable influence to prevent this Act from being attached to another bill and that you prevent it from passing should it be voted on by itself.

This Act, or similar language, requires state and local governments to allow public safety officers to, among other things, form and join unions, bargain over working conditions, and sign labor contracts. **These federal requirements directly contradict the clear public policy of Virginia by preempting state law that expressly prohibits such activity** (see VA Code §40.1-57.2 through §40.1-57.3). We respectfully request that you respect and preserve our state's right to make those determinations when dealing with state and local government employees by making sure that this Act does not pass in any form.

Our law has been on the books since 1993. There have been numerous attempts to expand it to accomplish what this federal bill seeks. The General Assembly has repeatedly declined to do so and we have supported those decisions. As a U.S. Senator of our Commonwealth, we therefore ask that first and foremost you represent the clear and considered position of Virginia on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clinton S. Morse" followed by a horizontal flourish.

Clinton S. Morse
Chairman