



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON
Executive Director

March 3, 2016

The Honorable Michael McCaul
U.S. House of Representatives
131 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
475 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman McCaul and Senator Warner:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I write to commend you both for your leadership in developing the McCaul- Warner Digital Security Commission. In recent years, the "going dark" phenomenon has revealed that technological innovation presents a series of challenges to our federal, state, and local law enforcement professionals. As new products and programs hit the market, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain lawful access to evidence of crimes and information which could help preserve the public safety.

It is time to address these threats by bringing industry leaders and experts together with our law enforcement and intelligence communities. For too long this conversation has been a shouting match, dominated by interests and characterized by mistrust and suspicion. The McCaul-Warner Commission demonstrates the leadership needed to identify solutions and advance our national security and public safety. By building a public record on the existing challenges our agencies face, the Commission will provide a preeminent voice for state and local law enforcement to be a part of the solution to current and emerging challenges. The Commission will ask hard questions, exploring the options to strengthen public safety, investigate crime, and preserve the digital security we all desire. Together, the diverse groups represented by the Commission will strive to establish consensus to deal with the challenges of today as well as tomorrow.

The current language is not perfect but I appreciate your willingness to listen to the concerns of law enforcement and consider reasonable changes, including an increased voice for law enforcement and the addition of prosecutorial perspective. Such modifications would help ensure that we do not equate the interests of the intelligence community and law enforcement uniformly. As the legislation moves forward, the National Sheriffs' Association stands ready to assist you and your colleagues to enhance the foundation upon which the solutions to these challenges will be built.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan F. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jonathan F. Thompson