

## **2026 Police Week and NAPO Legislative Day**

Earlier this month Executive Board members of the Iowa State Police Association traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in National Police Week activities and engage in important legislative discussions alongside the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO).

Throughout the week, President Jason Feaker (Waterloo Police Department) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Shawn Morgan (Des Moines Police Department) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Gavin Carman (Cedar Falls Police Department) met with every member of Iowa's congressional delegation to discuss key federal priorities impacting law enforcement officers and their families. Conversations focused on recruitment and retention challenges facing agencies across the country, housing incentives, improvements to the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program, mental health and wellness support for first responders, and expanding access to childcare resources for public safety professionals.

The meetings were productive, meaningful, and candid. Discussions with members of Congress and their staff allowed for open dialogue on the realities facing Iowa law enforcement today. While this was our federal delegation, we took the time to express the boards frustration over the lack of progress at the state level regarding our recruitment and retention initiatives.

These conversations are critical to ensuring Iowa's law enforcement officers have a voice at both the federal and state levels. We appreciate the willingness of Iowa's delegation to engage directly with us on the challenges facing the profession and the need for continued support of those who serve our communities every day.

The week also included participation in the NAPO Legislative Luncheon, where U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley served as the featured speaker. Earlier that morning, Senator Grassley, serving as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, successfully advanced both the PSOB legislation and the Fighting PTSD Act out of committee — significant steps forward in strengthening support, benefits, and mental health resources for public safety officers and their families.

National Police Week serves as an annual opportunity to honor the sacrifices of law enforcement officers while also advocating for policies and resources that strengthen public safety and support the wellness of officers and their families. If there are any issues you would like us to take action on, please contact any ISPA Executive Board member.