

H.R. 3604- BUST Act

H.R. 3604, The Badge and Uniform Trustworthiness Act (BUST Act)

H.R. 3604, the Badge and Uniform Trustworthiness Act, would expand the ban on the use of counterfeit police badges to any official insignia or article of clothing. The bill would also impose stricter sentencing guidelines for those defendants who are guilty of this crime.

Just three years ago, a man in an FBI jacket and showing a badge, shot one person and killed another while attempting to rob at Xerox credit union. More recently, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) arrested a man in New York City who was in the possession of over 1,300 "high-quality counterfeit" badges from over 35 law enforcement agencies. Cases like these are prevalent and extremely unnerving. If a terrorist were to gain access to hazardous materials using a health inspector uniform and then, with an Environmental Protection Agency ID, gained access to a water treatment plant, there would be disastrous consequences. Expanding the prohibition on police badges to include all insignias and uniforms of public officials, as H.R. 3604 would do, will help our law enforcement agencies protect our neighborhoods and our country from criminals and terrorists who use these deceptive tactics.

H.R. 3604 was included in the Department of Justice Authorization bill and was signed into law in January.