March 23, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman, Subcommittee on CJS  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-301 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on CJS  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Fattah,

Thank you for your ongoing and diligent efforts to appropriately rebalance limited resources in order to support our nation’s highest priorities. As you begin to craft the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriation bill for Fiscal Year 2016, we respectfully urge you to include sufficient funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs, in particular the COPS Hiring program. These programs are critical to ensuring that state and local law enforcement have the tools, personnel and resources necessary to protect and serve their communities, including in efforts to prevent further gun violence.

The Byrne JAG and COPS programs are the cornerstone of our federal justice assistance programs. Since their inception, the Byrne JAG and COPS programs have enabled law enforcement agencies to form vital partnerships among communities and law enforcement officers, combat criminal activities, and develop and implement problem-solving and crime prevention programs nationwide.

The strength of the Byrne JAG program is in its impact across the criminal justice system, from law enforcement to prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, program planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives. The COPS Office and its corresponding programs provide invaluable resources and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies, keeping our communities safe. Sufficient funding is critical to ensuring that law enforcement has the resources necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the public, because in recent years law enforcement agencies have experience shrinking budgets and difficult decisions concerning operational readiness and number of officers on patrol.

We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction, and we thank you for your work. Support for the Byrne JAG and COPS Hiring programs is imperative to the safety of our communities. These programs supplement the manpower and incentivize the collaboration across agencies necessary to build upon successful crime reduction efforts over the past 20 years. For these reasons, we respectfully request that
you include strong funding for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs, especially the COPS Hiring program, in the FY2016 CJS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

John Carney  
Member of Congress
William Keating
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Mark Takai
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress
David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Ann Mclane Kuster
Member of Congress

George Holding
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

Ryan Costello
Member of Congress

Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress

Norma Torres
Member of Congress

Joe Heck, D.O.
Member of Congress

Mark Walker
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Mike Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

John Delaney
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Richard Nugent
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Loretta Sánchez
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Martha McSally  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress
Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Don Young  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress
Pedro Pierluisi  
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch  
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Alma Adams  
Member of Congress

Garret Graves  
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress

Paul Cook  
Member of Congress

French Hill  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress