April 4, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson  The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano,

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 2018, 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 FY2018 CJS appropriations bill.
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ralph Abraham
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Dave Brat
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Dave Reichert
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Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress

Robert Brady
Member of Congress

Anthony Brown
Member of Congress
Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
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Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Garret Graves  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
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Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

George Holding  
Member of Congress

Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries  
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Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Peter King
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

John Larson
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Caben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress
Sandy Levin
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

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

Martha McSally
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Stephan Lynch
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Doris Matsui
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Pete Rueskens
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Darren Soto
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Eric Swalwell
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Mike Thompson
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Robert "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
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Albie Sires
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Adam Smith
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Steve Silvers
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Mark Takano
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Glenn "GT" Thompson
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Niki Tsongas  
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Jerry McNerney  
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Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress