Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson, Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Honda, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda,

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) appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2017, 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.

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 experienced shrinking budgets and difficult decisions concerning operational readiness and the number of officers on patrol. With tensions between community and police at an all-time high, it is critical that we adequately fund these programs so police departments nationwide have the necessary resources to be able to engage with their communities to prevent crime, instead of just having to respond from call to call.

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 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 FY2017 CJS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Paul Cook
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

French Hill
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Charles W. Boustany, Jr., MD
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Joe Crowley
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

John Delaney
Member of Congress

Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Joe Heck, D.O.
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Dave Scott
Member of Congress

Barbara J. Comstock
Member of Congress

Curt Clawson
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Mark Walker
Member of Congress

Cresent Hardy
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

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

Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress

George Holding
Member of Congress

Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Danny Davis
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

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

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Chris Smith
Member of Congress

Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Madeline Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Don Young, Congressman For All Alaska
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Martha McSally
Member of Congress

Garret Graves
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

Peter T. King
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

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

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

Mark Takai
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress