

November 10, 2015

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
352 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Honda  
Acting Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
1713 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Shelby and Mikulski and Congressmen Culberson and Honda:

We, the undersigned national groups representing a broad cross-section of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, request that Congress maintain the integrity of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program in the FY16 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill. **Specifically, we request that the cost of reimbursing the host cities for security at the presidential nominating conventions not be at the expense of the Byrne JAG program.**

Byrne JAG is the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, supporting the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices. States, territories, cities and counties all across this nation use Byrne JAG funding to test emerging and evidence-based approaches to the public safety challenges facing their jurisdictions. It runs counter to the very purpose of the program to use the funds for the operational needs of two cities for a specific event.

Since FY10, funding for the program has been cut by 35 percent, from \$511 million in FY10 to \$333 million in FY15 (after carve-outs). In FY12, Congress reimbursed the cities of Tampa and Charlotte for the cost of convention security through a \$100 million carve-out from the Byrne JAG account. To do so in FY16 would be another 30 percent cut to the program, for a total loss since FY10 of 55 percent or almost \$280 million. This would mean the loss of hundreds of worthy programs - across every state and community in the nation - that prevent crime, support victims, reduce recidivism and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

You have always been steadfast supporters of law enforcement and the innovative and data-driven solutions supported by the Byrne JAG program. We applaud you for your leadership and thank you for doing everything you can to protect the integrity of the Byrne JAG program.

Sincerely,

National Criminal Justice Association  
Major County Sheriffs' Association  
National Sheriffs' Association  
US Conference of Mayors  
National Association of Counties  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
Council of State Governments Justice Center  
Major Cities Chiefs Association  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
National District Attorneys Association  
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys  
National Domestic Violence Hotline  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Association of Police Organizations  
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators  
National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
Pretrial Justice Institute  
Police Foundation  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors  
SEARCH  
Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network  
National Association of Drug Court Professionals  
American Jail Association  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
Association of VAWA Administrators