

June 5, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking member
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Mikulski and Shelby and Congressmen Wolf and Fattah:

We, the undersigned national groups representing a broad cross-section of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, thank you for your strong, consistent and thoughtful leadership in the United States Congress on federal assistance to state and local evidence-based criminal justice programming, in particular the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG). We recognize the many competing pressures upon you as you seek to prioritize funding for many important programs across the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) bill. As you know, funding for the Byrne JAG program was reduced by over one-third in the FY10 and FY11 funding cycles. We are grateful to you for sparing the program from further cuts in the FY13 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act. We write today to respectfully ask that Byrne JAG be supported at least at level funding in the FY14 appropriations bill.

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 nationwide. States and localities use Byrne JAG to test emerging and evidence-based approaches to the public safety challenges in their jurisdictions. Because Byrne JAG is flexible, states and local communities are able to use funding to address needs and fill gaps across the entire criminal justice system – in prevention, enforcement, courts, prosecution and defense, corrections, victim assistance, and other community support. This flexibility is the hallmark of the Byrne JAG program and is vitally important because only when the criminal justice system is in balance can the system function with efficiency and effectiveness.

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) surveys the State Administering Agencies (SAAs) annually, gathering a wealth of information about how states and local governments allocate Byrne JAG funding to meet system needs. From that survey, we know that Byrne JAG dollars were invested broadly across all segments of the criminal justice system in FY11, and that two thirds of the states invested in at least four of these seven statutorily defined purpose areas:

- 52 percent for law enforcement (including operations, multijurisdictional task forces, equipment, overtime, information technology, juvenile delinquency prevention, anti-gang programs, etc.);
- 11 percent for prosecution and courts (including problem-solving courts and indigent defense);
- 7 percent for prevention and education programming;

- 11 percent for corrections, including community-based corrections;
- 5 percent for drug treatment and enforcement;
- 12 percent for technology, planning and evaluation; and
- 2 percent for crime victim and witness programs.

In most states, grants are made using a peer-reviewed, competitive application process based on a statewide strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state's system stakeholders. In partnership with the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the SAAs are engaged in a concerted strategy to increase investment in evidence-based programs and innovative strategies and practices that are measured and can be replicated. Because of these efforts, Byrne JAG is advancing the evidence-based practices movement within the criminal justice field at a remarkable pace.

Byrne JAG grants have also been the catalyst for building collaboration within communities and across states, including the critical role multijurisdictional drug task forces play in rising above a focus on day-to-day local crime so as to target larger, regional drug trafficking organizations. This task force model is now being replicated all across the country to tackle other cross-boundary crimes, such as human trafficking and cyber crime, while saving money and increasing efficiency in the process.

Byrne JAG grantees collect data and measure the effectiveness of their efforts that they report to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and to the SAA. From October 2008 through September 2011, Byrne JAG grantees reported:

- Over 5,000 drug trafficking organizations disrupted;
- 19,066 state and 2,612 federal forfeiture cases filed;
- Nearly 156,000 individuals completed anti-bullying programs, drug prevention programs, community seminars about the court system and laws, at-risk youth summer camps, residential programs for alcohol and/or substance abuse problems, reentry, and other programs;
- 7,739 gang members arrested for a felony and another nearly 3,000 arrested for a serious misdemeanor;
- Over 500,000 hours of overtime paid to police, prosecutors, social workers, clinical staff; and
- Approximately 600 multijurisdictional task forces funded nationwide which reported the seizure of 2.3 million pounds of drugs (for the time period July 2010 through July 2011), the majority of which are large seizures, including:
 - 2,787 lbs. (1,264 kg) of heroin;
 - 67,380 lbs. (30,558 kg) of cocaine (crack and powder combined);
 - 2,191,459 lbs. (993,859 kg) of marijuana;
 - 21,752 lbs. (9,865 kg) of methamphetamine; and
 - 518 lbs. (235 kg) of ecstasy.

Byrne JAG is supported by a broad and dedicated coalition of groups and voices from across the criminal justice system. We come together on this letter recognizing the central role Byrne JAG plays in preventing victimization, supporting innovative law enforcement practices, supporting fair administration of and access to justice, serving and protecting victims, and leveraging other federal, state, local and private dollars to support the balanced functioning of the criminal justice system.

The reductions in funding to the Byrne JAG program in FY10 and FY11 exacted a toll on crime prevention and crime fighting initiatives in communities across the country. We thank you for protecting the Byrne

JAG program in the FY13 bill and we respectfully request that you again protect Byrne JAG from further cuts in the FY14 appropriations cycle.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



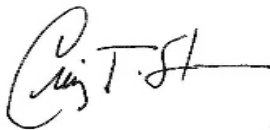
Jack Cutrone
President
National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)



Aaron Kennard
Executive Director
National Sheriffs Association (NSA)



Sheriff Richard Stanek
President
Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCSA)



Craig T. Steckler
President
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)



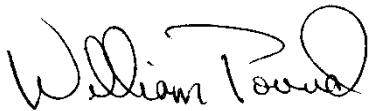
Darrel W Stephens
Executive Director
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM)



Matthew Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties (NACo)



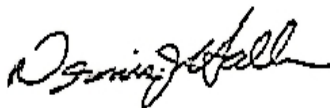
William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)



Bob Bushman
President
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition



Scott Burns
Executive Director
National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)



Dennis Hallion
Executive Director
National Troopers Coalition (NTC)



Michael Thompson
Executive Director
Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG)



Carl Wicklund
Executive Director
American Probation and Parole Association (APPA)



Mai Fernandez
Executive Director
National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)



Ann M. Harkins
President and CEO
National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)



Bill Johnson
Executive Director
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)



Steve Derene
Executive Director
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA)

Bruce Ferrell

Bruce Ferrell
President
National Alliance of Gang Investigators' Associations (NAGIA)



David LaBahn
President/CEO
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA)

Stew Rowles

Stew Rowles
Executive Director
International Community Corrections Association (ICCA)



Tim Murray
Executive Director
Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI)

Robert J. Kasabian

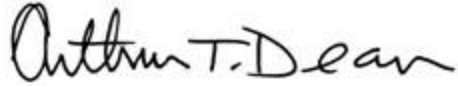
Robert J. Kasabian
Executive Director
American Jail Association (AJA)



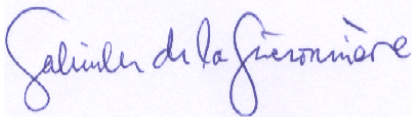
Ronald C. Sloan
President
Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)



West Huddleston
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director
National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)



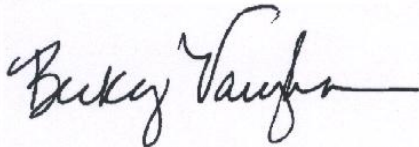
Arthur T. Dean
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired
Chairman and CEO
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)



Gabrielle de la Gueronniere
Director of National Policy
Legal Action Center (LAC)

Michael Etko

Michael Etko
Senior Policy Advocate
National TASC



Becky D. Vaughn
CEO
State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)



Nancy Gannon Hornberger
Executive Director
Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)

Maureen Monagle

Maureen Monagle
President
Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA)



Sam A. Cabral
International President
International Union of Police Associations (IUPA)



Will Marling
Executive Director
National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)



James Bueermann
President
Police Foundation



Roberta Meyers
Director
National H.I.R.E. Network



Robert I. L. Morrison
Executive Director
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)

Scott Came

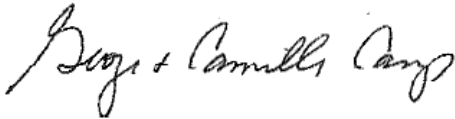
Scott Came
Executive Director
SEARCH



Dan Eddy
Executive Director
National Association of Crime Victims' Compensation Boards (NACVCB)



James A. Gondles, Jr.
Executive Director
American Correctional Association (ACA)



George and Camille Camp
Co-Executive Directors
Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA)



Teresa Huizar
Executive Director
National Children's Alliance



John P. Kingrey
President
National Association of Coordinators (NAPC)



Steve Ambrosini
Executive Director
IJIS Institute



Edward J. Loughran
Executive Director
Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA)



Stacie Rumenap
President
Stop Child Predators



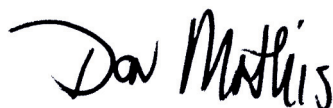
Doug Robinson
Executive Director
National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO)



Pat Beauchemin
Executive Director
Treatment Communities of America



Scott Berkowitz
President
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)



Don Mathis
President & CEO
Community Action Partnership

Darin Cunningham

Darin Cunningham
President
National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA)

Darla Bardine

Darla Bardine
Policy Director
The National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

Richard E. Steinberg

Richard E. Steinberg
President and CEO
WestCare Foundation

cc: Senator Thad Cochran, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies
Representative Hal Rogers, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related
Agencies