

March 25, 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
Ranking Member
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 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

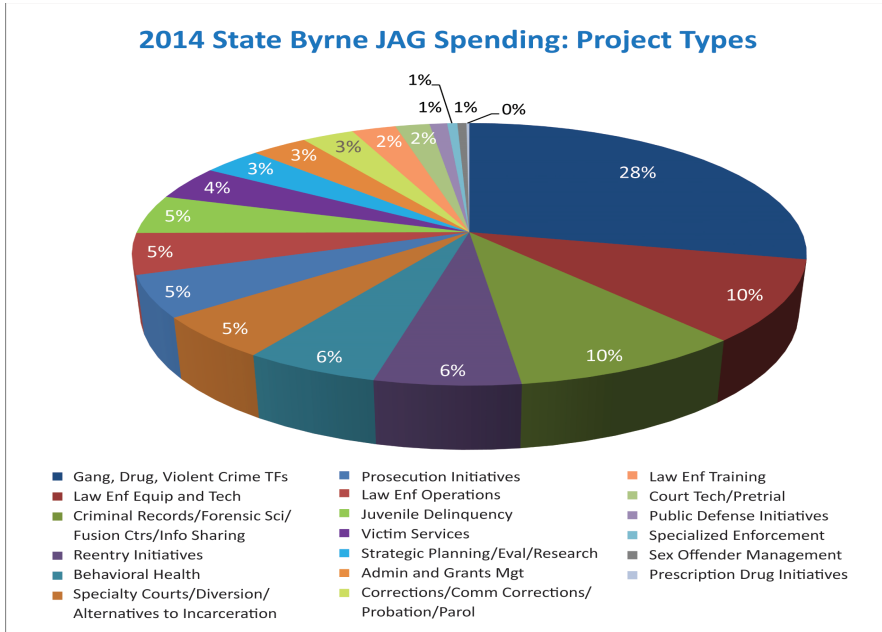
Dear Senators Shelby and Mikulski and Congressmen Culberson and Fattah:

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 and support for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program, and we respectfully request that Byrne JAG is provided at least level funding in FY16.

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 juvenile and criminal justice systems – in prevention, enforcement, courts, prosecution and indigent defense, corrections, victim assistance, treatment, and other community support. This flexibility is the hallmark of the Byrne JAG program and is vitally important because when the juvenile and criminal justice systems are in balance, the system functions with efficiency and effectiveness.

Byrne JAG is advancing the evidence-based practices movement within the criminal justice field at a remarkable pace. In most states, the state formula grant awards are made using a peer-reviewed, competitive application process based on a statewide strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state's system stakeholders. The State Administering Agencies (SAAs) invest in evidence-based programs and innovative strategies that can be measured and are replicable. Byrne JAG grants have also been the catalyst for building collaboration within communities and across states, including the critical role multijurisdictional task forces play in targeting gangs, drug violence, human trafficking, cyber crime and other cross-boundary criminal activity.

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) periodically surveys the SAAs, 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 are invested broadly across all segments of the juvenile and criminal justice systems, as depicted in the chart below.



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

We recognize the competing pressures you face to prioritize funding for many important programs in the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) bill. We recognize also that the federal justice assistance grant programs declined steeply in FY11 and FY12 to achieve deficit reduction, resulting in a cut to Byrne JAG funding of 35 percent, and we remain appreciative to you for limiting further reductions in the succeeding recent years. These reductions have come with a cost, as many proven programs and new innovations to protect victims, hold offenders accountable, prevent crime, and reduce recidivism have been curbed or eliminated entirely.

We deeply appreciate your leadership in fighting for a strong, vibrant Byrne JAG program. We thank you for your steadfast support and respectfully request that Byrne JAG is protected from further cuts in FY16.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Smith
 President
 National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)



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



Matthew Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties (NACo)



Chief Richard Beary
President
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)



Donny Youngblood
President
Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCSA)



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



Jonathan F. Thompson
Executive Director
National Sheriffs Association (NSA)



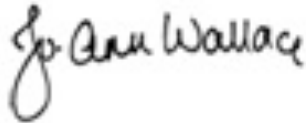
Mike Moore
President
National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)

Brett Kandt

Brett Kandt
President
National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC)



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



Jo-Ann Wallace
President & CEO
National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA)

Bob Bushman

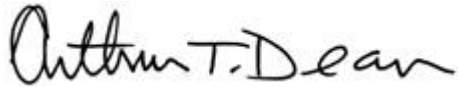
Bob Bushman
President
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)



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



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



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



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



Mari Kay Bickett, JD
Chief Executive Officer
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)



Pamela F. Rodriguez
President & CEO
TASC, Inc.



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



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



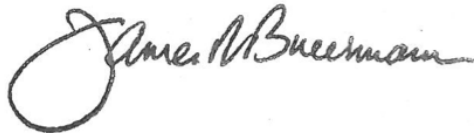
Dan Eddy
Executive Director
National Association of Crime Victims' Compensation Boards (NACVCB)



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



Melvin H. Wilson
Manager, Department of Social Justice and Human Rights
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)



James Bueermann
President
Police Foundation



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



Phil Nunes
President
International Community Corrections Association (ICCA)



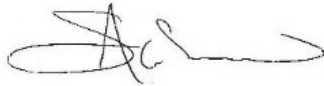
Matt Josephs
Senior Vice President, Policy
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Marie Williams

Marie Williams
Executive Director
Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)



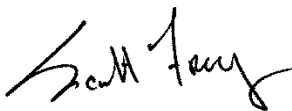
David H. Naisby, Jr.
President
National Association for Justice Information Sharing Systems (NAJIS)



Steve Ambrosini
Executive Director
IJS Institute



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



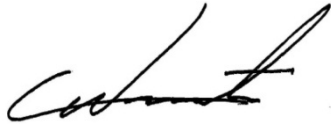
Scott Frey
Director of Federal Government Affairs
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers (AFSCME, AFL-CIO)



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



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



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



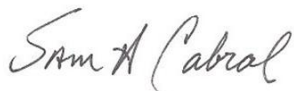
Charles P. Schoville
President
National Alliance of Gang Investigators' Associations (NAGIA)



Greg Berman
Director
Center for Court Innovation



Matt Hodapp
Chairman
National Troopers Coalition (NTC)



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



Teresa Huizar
Executive Director
National Children's Alliance (NCA)

Maureen Monagle

Maureen Monagle
President
Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA)



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



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

Scott Came

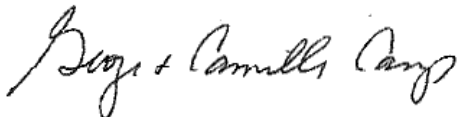
Scott Came
Executive Director
SEARCH



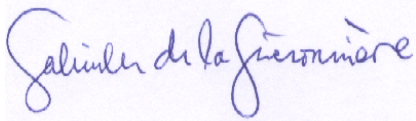
Cherise Fanno Burdeen
Executive Director
Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI)



Jim Sawyer
President
National Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NAPSA)



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



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



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



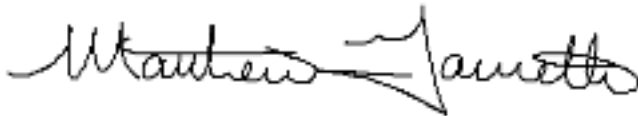
Darla Bardine
Policy Director
The National Network for Youth (NN4Y)



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



Pat Beauchemin
Executive Director
Treatment Communities of America



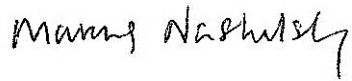
Matthew Gamette
Chair
Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)



Steve Johnson
President
International Association for Identification (IAI)



Brady Mills
President
American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD)



Marcus B. Nahelsky, MD
President
National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME)



Kimberly Womack
President
International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN)

Bruce A. Goldberger

Bruce A. Goldberger
President
American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT)

Copies to Members of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies