

March 13, 2026

The Honorable
Chair Tom Cole
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable
Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We the undersigned, who are all members of the New Democrat Coalition, are writing to you today requesting support for critical public safety programs that provide necessary resources for local law enforcement agencies nationwide to safeguard their communities. Local control over public safety ensures that law enforcement agencies are able to respond to emergencies and adapt efforts to the specific needs of their communities and neighborhoods, which increases public trust. As departments across the country struggle with recruitment, retention, and training under strained budgets, it is more critical than ever that we provide state and local law enforcement with the resources they need to respond to crimes ranging from theft and assault to gun violence, human trafficking, and domestic terrorism. We urge you to keep these programs intact and fully funded in support of the men and women in law enforcement and the safety of the people they serve.

Fully funding public safety programs, like those listed below, will enhance law enforcement's ability to protect communities safely and effectively.

- **The Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)**, is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. These grants provide local jurisdictions with enhanced resources for enforcement, prosecution, crime prevention, drug treatment, victim and witness initiatives, mental health, and other important public safety initiatives. The nine different program areas are intended to provide flexibility in creating unique programs to match what the applying agency needs.
- **The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)** program builds trust between police departments and the communities they serve. COPS grants allow local police departments to hire community policing professionals, develop and test innovative policing strategies, and train local government leaders to best support their police officers and protect their communities. As law enforcement officers strive to form connections with their communities, the COPS program encourages innovative practices in establishing trust in both the police force and community partners.
- **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)** program supports local law enforcement and emergency responders in high-risk urban areas by enhancing their ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. UASI grants fund coordinated regional preparedness efforts, improve intelligence-sharing, and strengthen the protection of critical infrastructure. By investing

in local capacity, UASI ensures that law enforcement and first responders have the tools and training needed to keep communities safe in the face of evolving threats.

- **Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)** program strengthens partnerships between federal, state, and local law enforcement to reduce violent crime and make communities safer. PSN grants support evidence-based strategies to disrupt gun violence, gang activity, and repeat offenders. PSN enables law enforcement to build safer neighborhoods through focused, accountable policing. PSN expansion to carry out federal missions must not come at the expense of the safety of our local communities.
- **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)** program provides assistance to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to address regional drug threats and help reduce drug trafficking and illegal drug production. This funding would help create key law enforcement partnerships to help reduce the threat of illicit fentanyl in communities throughout the country.
- **Drug-Free Communities (DFC)** program equips law enforcement and community coalitions with the resources to prevent youth substance use and drug-related crime. DFC grants support strategies that address the root causes of drug abuse, while reinforcing law enforcement's role in prevention and education. By facilitating partnerships between police departments, schools, and families, the program helps reduce the presence of illicit substances in communities.
- **Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR)** grants provide funding for sexual assault kits and other DNA evidence backlogs. Sexual assault impacts millions of people each year in the U.S. After a violating experience, survivors may feel ashamed or afraid to tell the police about their traumatic incident and feel that the processing time for the police to receive the test kit back will simply take too long. This program helps local governments reduce delays in testing which may lead to additional criminal activity by serial offenders or incarceration of the innocent.

Congress has an obligation to ensure that public safety officers have the tools and supplies necessary to carry out their duties in a safe and efficient manner. We look forward to working with your Committee to ensure robust funding for these public safety programs.

Sincerely,



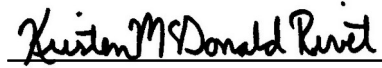
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



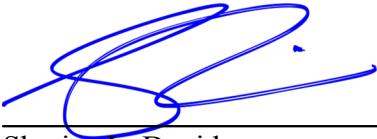
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



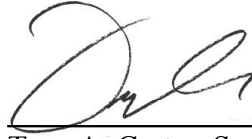
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



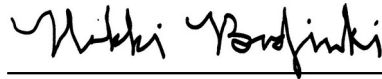
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress
Kansas Third District



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



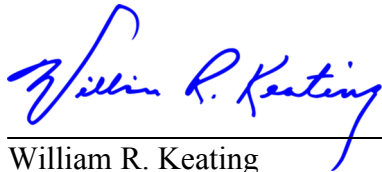
SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



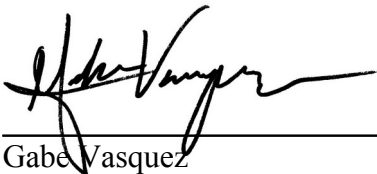
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



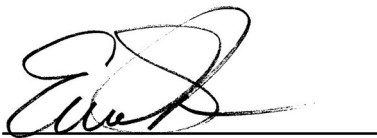
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



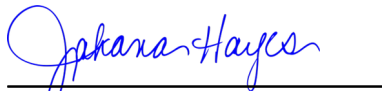
Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



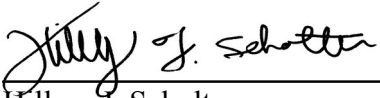
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



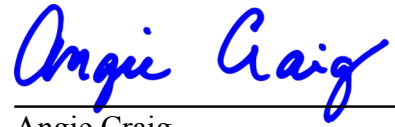
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress




Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



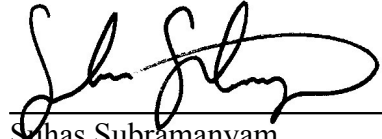
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