

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

21 January 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C. Jeremy Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Representative Lewis,


I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for the "American Recovery and Investment Act," which the Appropriations Committee will take up today.

The legislation includes \$3 billion in recovery funds for the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) program. This vital anti-crime program provides support for a diverse range of law enforcement, prosecutorial and other criminal justice initiatives in communities across the country. The program is used by State and local governments to fund multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces, cold case units, identity theft investigations, school violence prevention programs, services for threatened jurors, witness protection programs, victims' rights and hate crime programs.

The bill also includes \$1 billion for the hiring grant program administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. This program was the centerpiece of law enforcement's success in reducing our nation's crime rate, but has not been funded in recent years. These needed funds will help State and local law enforcement agencies return to full strength.

On behalf of the more than 327,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to urge the committee to approve this legislation with the vital law enforcement funding intact. If I can be of any additional help on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

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