



International Association of  
Chiefs of Police

515 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2357  
Phone: 703-836-6767; 1-800-THE IACP

Fax: 703-836-4543  
Web: www.theiacp.org

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January 21, 2009

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our strong support for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The legislation includes \$4 billion to support state, local, and tribal law enforcement in Edward R. Byrne Justice Assistance (Byrne-JAG) and Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants. These programs are vital to law enforcement's continuing ability to protect communities throughout the nation.

As you know, the Byrne-JAG program is a highly successful program with a proven record in helping law enforcement agencies to fight crime effectively. The program provides critical funds to assist law enforcement in controlling and preventing drug abuse, crime, and violence, and in improving the criminal justice system.

Additionally, the COPS program funds critical measures to combat drug production and trafficking, gun trafficking, gang violence, and to hire school resource officers. The COPS program also makes possible hiring officers to perform intelligence, anti-terror, or homeland security duties and the recruitment of inactive military personnel to pursue the law enforcement profession.

Unfortunately, in recent years funding for these critical programs has been slashed. For example, Byrne-JAG received just \$170 million in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act, representing a cut of \$350 million, or 68 percent from its FY 2007 level. The Universal Hiring Program at the Office of Community Oriented Policing received only \$20 million.

The IACP strongly believes that, by restoring funding for these critical programs, Congress will significantly strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to combat crime and violence in our communities. Therefore, the IACP urges you to pass quickly the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel N. Rosenblatt  
Executive Director