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For Immediate Release

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Significant Funding for State and Local Public Safety Included in Senate Compromise

February 7, 2009 – Last night's announcement of a tentative compromise economic stimulus bill by a bipartisan group of senators included \$3.5 billion in funding for state and local law enforcement efforts. If passed, this wide-ranging funding will create and retain thousands of jobs throughout the criminal justice system in every state and territory and will help states and local communities combat reported spikes in crime linked to the economic downturn.

The compromise bill includes \$1.2 billion for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program, \$1 billion for the COPS hiring program and \$300 million to fight domestic violence as well as funding to support crime victims and track cyber predators. Earlier this month, the House included \$4 billion for state and local law enforcement, including \$3 billion for Byrne JAG and \$1 billion for the COPS hiring program, in their version of the bill.

Byrne JAG is the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, enabling communities to target resources to their most pressing local needs. The FY08 omnibus appropriations bill cut the Byrne JAG program by 67 percent, from \$520 million in FY07 to \$170 million in FY08, causing layoffs across the criminal justice system and dealing a crippling blow to crime-fighting efforts nationwide.

Byrne JAG funds the people who fight crime. According to a survey of NCJA members an estimated 75 percent of the Byrne JAG money included in the stimulus bill will go for personnel creating jobs in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Some of jobs states report will be created are: Victim service providers • Juvenile and adult probation officers • Drug and Alcohol counselors • Law enforcement officers and other staff • IT personnel • Prosecutors • Forensic criminalists and forensic scientists • Judges • Public defenders • Administrative Clerks • Drug Investigators • Gang Investigators • K-9 Officers • Criminalists • Research analysts • Child abuse investigators • Court Administrators • School Resource Officers • DARE Officers • Special Victims Unit Investigators • Victim Advocates • State prisons and regional jail personnel • Domestic violence investigators and prosecutors • Support staff • Computer crime analysts • DNA lab specialists

Most importantly, Byrne JAG funding works. In a recent survey, 34 states reported that in 2007, their agencies funded 457 multi-jurisdictional taskforces, which made 113,834 arrests. These taskforces seized over 6.5 million pounds of drugs and dismantled 2,445 meth labs. They also funded 128 specialty and drug courts that served 5,865 offenders. In addition, they funded 596 prevention programs that served 102,036 youth and 236 victim services programs that helped 184,068 victims.

Based in Washington, D.C., the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) represents state, tribal and local governments on crime control and public safety issues. The NCJA Advisory Council, the association's governing body, is comprised of high-level state and tribal. Members of the Advisory Council represent attorneys' general offices, juvenile justice departments, universities, state, tribal and local law enforcement agencies, local criminal justice administrative offices, as well as state and tribal criminal justice planning and administrative offices. For more information on Byrne JAG funding in the stimulus bill, visit the NCJA website at www.NCJA.org.

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