

**PRESIDENT**

**David O. Steingraber** †

Executive Director

Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Roland Mena** †

Executive Director

Montana Board of Crime Control

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

**David E. Jones** †

Executive Director

North Carolina Governor's

Crime Commission

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Cabell C. Cropper** †

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**John A. Blackburn, Jr.** †

Executive Director

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

**Robert P. Boehmer**

Director

Institute for Public Safety Partnerships

University of Illinois at Chicago

**Fran Ecker**

Director

Division of Programs and Services

Virginia Department of

Criminal Justice Services

**J. Norbert Federspiel** †

Director

West Virginia Division of

Criminal Justice Services

**Burke Fitzpatrick**

Administrator

South Carolina Office of Justice Programs

**Jerome Ierome**

Executive Director

Commonwealth of N. Mariana Islands

Criminal Justice Planning Agency

**Anne Jordan**

Commissioner

Maine Department of Public Safety

**James Kane** †

Executive Director

Delaware Criminal Justice Council

**Gary Kendell** †

Director

Iowa Governor's Office of Drug

Control Policy

**Christian Kervick**

Deputy Director

Delaware Criminal Justice Council

**Mary Marshall**

Public Information Officer

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

**Karhlton Moore**

Executive Director

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

**Jeanne Smith**

Director

Division of Criminal Justice

CO Department of Public Safety

**Thomas Weissmuller**

Chief Judge

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

† denotes Executive Committee

For Immediate Release

Contact: NCJA (202) 628-8550

## Senate Stimulus Bill Includes \$3.95 Billion to Support State and Local Law Enforcement

January 27, 2009 - The criminal justice community is gratified that the Senate Appropriations Committee has included \$3.95 billion for state and local law enforcement efforts in their version of the economic stimulus bill. If passed, this wide-ranging funding will improve all aspects of the criminal justice system from victim service providers and youth programs to law enforcement efforts to combat drugs. The bill includes \$1.5 billion for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program and \$1 billion for the COPS hiring program. 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.

These funds will help states and local communities combat reported spikes in crime linked to the economic downturn. And create and save jobs across the justice system.

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. These are family-supporting jobs in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Some of jobs states report will be created – without a long lead time 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 about 457 multi-jurisdictional taskforces, which made 113,834 arrests. These taskforces seized over 6.5 million pounds of drugs worth over \$10.1 billion 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 over 102,036 youth and 236 victim services programs that helped over 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.

###