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\$4 Billion for State and Local Public Safety Included in the Stimulus Bill

February 13, 2009 – NCJA applauds the inclusion of \$4 billion for state and local law enforcement efforts in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This funding will create and retain thousands of vital public safety jobs throughout the country. The work of these dedicated professionals will keep communities everywhere safe as the country faces this economic crisis

The bill includes over \$2 billion for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program, \$225 million to fight domestic violence, \$100 million to support crime victims and \$1 billion for the COPS hiring program. The bill also includes funding for rural and border law enforcement initiatives, to combat crime in Indian country and track cyber predators.

"I enthusiastically applaud Congress for its support of the criminal justice system in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act," said NCJA President David Steingraber, executive director of the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. "With Byrne formula funds on hand, states will have the flexibility to make effective and meaningful investments in law enforcement, drug treatment and crime prevention, creating an immediate and positive impact on our economy and public safety."

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.

Some of jobs states report will be created with Byrne JAG funding in the stimulus bill 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

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 officials designated as their jurisdiction's representatives on the Council. 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.

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