

NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS COALITION

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For Immediate Release

NNOAC President Applauds Inclusion of Byrne JAG Funding in House Version of the Economic Stimulus

January 16, 2009 – The drug enforcement community applauded yesterday's announcement that House Democrats have included \$4 billion for state and local law enforcement, including \$3 billion for Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program, in their version of the economic stimulus bill. These critical funds will help states and local communities combat reported spikes in crime linked to the economic downturn.

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, enabling communities to target resources to their most pressing local needs. Byrne JAG funding is the only federal funding stream that supports multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, which are vital to combat domestic and international drug trafficking organizations.

The FY08 omnibus appropriations bill cut the Byrne JAG by 67%, from \$520 million in FY07 to \$170 million in FY08, dealing a crippling blow to crime-fighting efforts nationwide.

"On behalf of the NNOAC, I'd like to thank House leadership for their dedication to a sound drug policy and their support for America's law enforcement," said NNOAC President Ronald E. Brooks. "After years of having to deal with devastating cuts to the Byrne-JAG program, I applaud the stimulus bill proposed by the House Democrats and look forward to working with Congress and the incoming Obama administration for its quick approval."

The NNOAC represents forty-four state Narcotic Officers' Associations including the RISS Directors Association, National HIDTA Directors Association and several related law enforcement organizations. Through these organizations, we represent a combined membership of more than sixty-nine thousand law enforcement officers throughout the United States. The NNOAC was formed in 1994 and continues to serve as the only advocate for America's Narcotic Officers on national issues.