

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

Dear President Bush:

We value your commitment and that of the U.S. Department of Justice to the safety and security of all Americans. We write to request your assistance with providing additional support for the federal, state, and local partnerships that work to promote our public safety.

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 created the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Program (often called the Byrne/JAG program). Under this program, the Department of Justice awards grants for use by states and local governments in crime prevention. The Byrne/JAG program has helped create and sustain multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task forces. We are proud of the successes of Kentucky and Missouri law-enforcement agencies in their fight against drugs and drug-related crimes, and many of our constituents in law enforcement have cited the Byrne/JAG program as integral to those successes.

Although last year's Senate appropriations measure to fund Department of Justice initiatives would have allocated \$660 million to the Byrne/JAG program, as you know, it was not signed into law. Instead, the Fiscal Year 2008 omnibus appropriations bill appropriated \$170 million for the program for Fiscal Year 2008 – a significant reduction from the \$570 million that it received in Fiscal Year 2007.

We applaud your emphasis on fiscal responsibility in last year's omnibus appropriations measure – an emphasis that continues, as reflected in your Fiscal Year 2009 budget. We urge your Administration to work to find a fiscally responsible path to quickly provide important funding for our domestic law-enforcement agencies for the current fiscal year. We stand ready to work with your Administration to find appropriate sources of funding to restore funding to the Byrne/JAG program without jeopardizing America's safety or security.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR



CHRISTOPHER S. BOND
UNITED STATES SENATOR



JIM BUNNING
UNITED STATES SENATOR