

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

We write to thank you for your support of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013, and ask that you maintain funding for the program in the fiscal year 2014 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

As thoughtful stewards of taxpayer money, we must continually assess where federal support is necessary and appropriate. It is clear to us that the strong foundation of federal, state, and local partnerships built from the Byrne JAG program remains as vital as ever.

One of the highest responsibilities of government is to protect its citizens and ensure public safety. Increasingly, regional, national and international gangs and drug trafficking organizations are driving the crime on our streets, pushing out across the states, and embedding deeper into our rural communities. Byrne JAG-funded programs facilitate cross-governmental intelligence and information sharing on terror and criminal threats, drug and human trafficking organizations and sexual predators. This collaboration is essential to address today's criminal networks that cross city, state and even international boundaries.

Nationwide, the crime rate is at its lowest level since the 1960s due in part to advances in policing, information technology, offender management, and cross-jurisdictional coordination supported by the Byrne JAG program. Federal support for Byrne JAG and state and local law enforcement is our first line of defense against criminals and the Byrne JAG program is vital in combating crimes of all types.

Through Byrne JAG, the Department of Justice (DOJ) plays a crucial role in spurring innovation and testing cost-effective, evidence-based approaches to fighting crime. With over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., cross-jurisdictional learning and coordination cannot happen effectively without federal support.

Furthermore, crime prevention and control can be truly successful only when the criminal justice system is in balance, with all of the parts functioning effectively. Byrne JAG's flexibility allows state and local governments to target their most pressing needs in law enforcement, prevention, pretrial services and treatment, courts, corrections, crime victims' services, prosecution and defense, and post-incarceration reentry services. Byrne JAG also leverages the massive investment that already occurs regularly in these programs at the state and local level.

We know of your steadfast commitment to the Byrne JAG program in years past, and we ask for your continued support in the fiscal year 2014 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



MARIA E. CANTWELL  
United States Senator



CHARLES E. GRASSLEY  
United States Senator



TOM HARKIN  
United States Senator



PATRICK J. LEAHY  
United States Senator



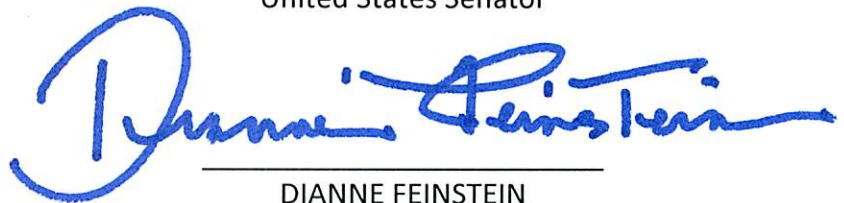
DEBBIE STABENOW  
United States Senator



TIM JOHNSON  
United States Senator



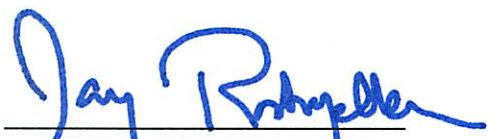
BARBARA BOXER  
United States Senator



DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
United States Senator



JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV  
United States Senator

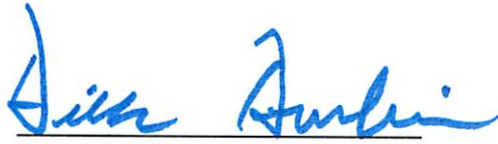




MAX BAUCUS  
United States Senator



FRANK R. LAUTENBERG  
United States Senator



RICHARD J. DURBIN  
United States Senator



CARL LEVIN  
United States Senator



JAMES INHOFE  
United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator



RON WYDEN  
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator



MARY LANDRIEU  
United States Senator



KAY R. HAGAN  
United States Senator



SUSAN COLLINS  
United States Senator



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator



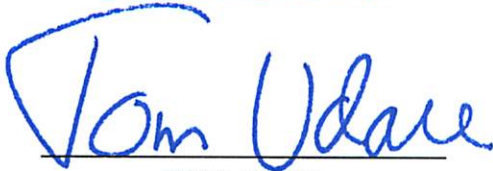
JACK REED  
United States Senator



AMY KLOBUCHAR  
United States Senator



AL FRANKEN  
United States Senator



TOM UDALL  
United States Senator



JON TESTER  
United States Senator



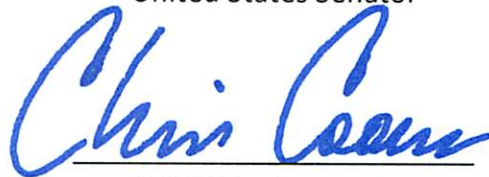
SHERROD BROWN  
United States Senator



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND  
United States Senator



KELLY AYOTTE  
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER COONS  
United States Senator



ROY BLUNT  
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senator




JEFF MERKLEY  
United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE  
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN  
United States Senator



ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
United States Senator



---

ELIZABETH WARREN  
United States Senator



---

HEIDI HEITKAMP  
United States Senator



---

MAZIE HIRONO  
United States Senator



---

BRIAN SCHATZ  
United States Senator



---

MICHAEL BENNET  
United States Senator



---

TAMMY BALDWIN  
United States Senator



---

MARTIN HEINRICH  
United States Senator



---

CHRIS MURPHY  
United States Senator



---

MO COWAN  
United States Senator



---

ROGER WICKER  
United States Senator