

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Frank Wolf, Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

Thank you for your ongoing and diligent efforts to appropriately rebalance limited resources in this difficult fiscal climate in order to support our nation's highest priorities. As you begin to craft the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriation bill for Fiscal Year 2014, we urge you to include sufficient funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs, in particular the COPS Hiring program. We also thank you for your work to include resources for these programs for Fiscal Year 2013. These programs are critical to ensuring that state and local law enforcement have the tools, personnel, and resources necessary to protect and serve their communities, including in efforts to prevent further gun violence.

The Byrne JAG and COPS programs are the cornerstone federal justice assistance programs. Since their inception, the Byrne JAG and COPS programs have enabled law enforcement agencies to form vital partnerships among communities and law enforcement officers, combat criminal activities, and develop and implement problem-solving and crime prevention programs nationwide.

The strength of the Byrne JAG program is in its impact across the criminal justice system, from law enforcement to prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, program planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives. The COPS Office and its corresponding programs provide invaluable resources and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies. Since its start, the COPS Hiring program has placed over 124,000 officers in communities across the United States to advance community policing and crime prevention efforts. These are critical bodies on the street patrolling high crime neighborhoods, in addition to the placement of school resource officers in our nation's schools to help keep our children safe.

As recent events have shown, it is essential that law enforcement has the resources necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the public. In recent years, law enforcement agencies have watched their budgets diminish significantly, resulting in agencies making extremely difficult sacrifices. For example, many law enforcement agencies have been increasing the size of an officer's patrol area and decreasing the number of officers on a shift due to a lack of available

personnel. These setbacks not only pose a serious risk to officers who may now patrol a high-crime area alone or wait longer for back-up; they also hamper law enforcement's ability to effectively and efficiently fight and prevent crime in communities.

We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction, and we thank you for your work to include resources for these programs for Fiscal Year 2013. Continued support for the Byrne JAG and COPS Hiring programs is imperative to the success of law enforcement in keeping our communities safe. These programs supplement the manpower and incentivize the collaboration across agencies necessary to build upon successful crime reduction efforts over the past 20 years. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you include strong funding for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs, especially the COPS Hiring program, in the FY2014 CJS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress



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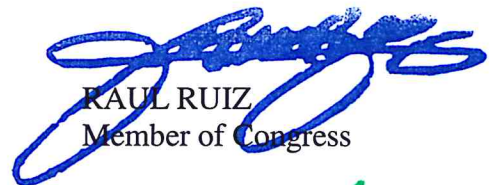
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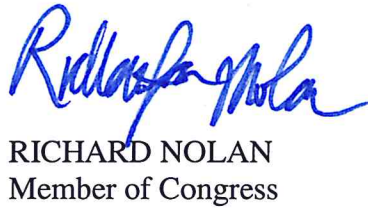
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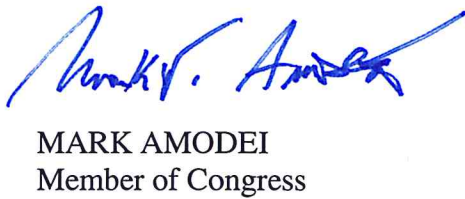
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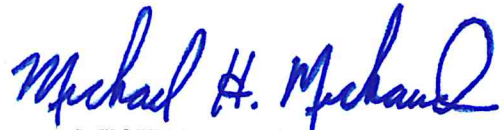
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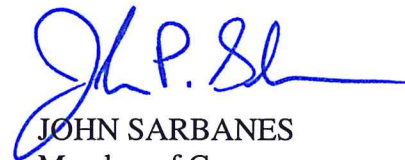
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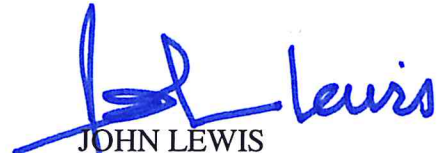
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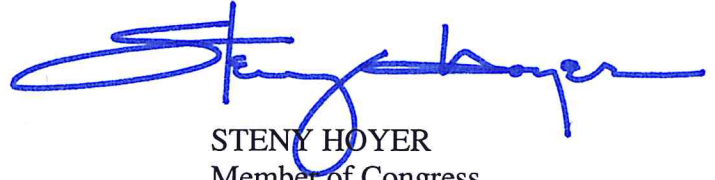
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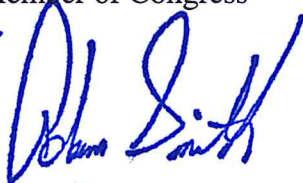
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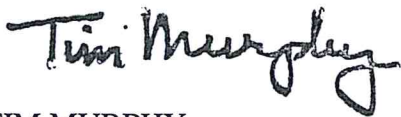
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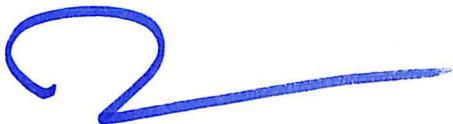
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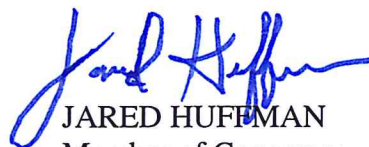
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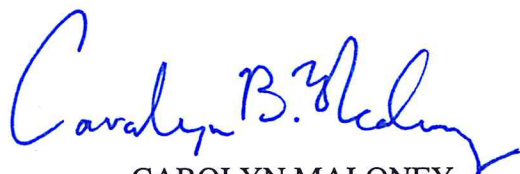
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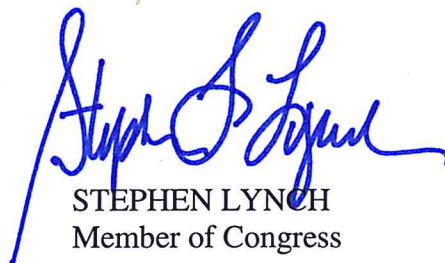
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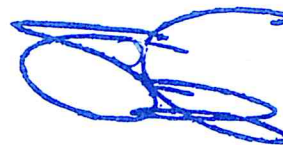
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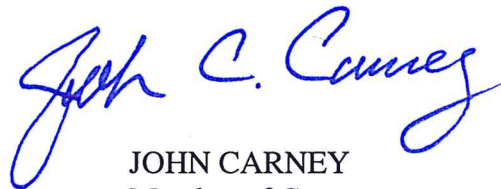
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