

April 28, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
2301 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Mikulski and Shelby and Congressmen Wolf and Fattah:

We write to offer our sincere thanks for protecting the Department of Justice's (DOJ) state and local justice assistance and other grant programs in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013. We know it is because of your extraordinary leadership and steady support for the federal investment in the criminal justice system that the final bill was able to hold most of the grant programs level and, in some cases, permit an increase so as to offset the 5 percent reduction of the sequester. We thank you for understanding the devastating impact the 43 percent reduction in the grant programs in FY11 and FY12 has had, and will continue to have, on the effectiveness of our crime prevention and crime fighting strategies in the field.

We are also pleased that the final FY13 bill was able to incorporate the House-passed and Senate committee-passed Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) bill. As you do, we think it is important for the final annual appropriations bill to benefit from the deliberative process of hearings, testimony, and debate undertaken by your subcommittees throughout the year.

We appreciate the opportunity to work together with you and with the Department to expand the use of evidence-based programs and performance measurement and to demonstrate successful outcomes from the justice assistance investments. This has always been an important part of our work but is ever more so in this fiscal environment. We look forward to continuing our work and progress in this area.

We thank you also for Jessica Berry, Goodloe Sutton, Stephanie Myers, Tom Culligan, and Darek Newby. Each has been a pleasure to work with throughout the appropriations process. They are extremely knowledgeable, discerning, patient, and open to our thoughts and concerns. They approach the challenge of assembling and balancing this critically important and diverse bill with deliberation and thoughtfulness. Sadly, three of these five talented staff have left the CJS subcommittee. This is your loss, and ours also.

The justice assistance grant programs are vital to our collective work in the field. We appreciate and applaud your strong and continuing support.

Sincerely,

*Jack Cutrone*  
*President*  
*National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)*

*Tom Cochran*  
*CEO and Executive Director*  
*The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM)*

*Chris Rodgers*  
*National President*  
*National Association of Counties (NACo)*

*Charles Ramsey, President*  
*Major Cities Chiefs and Police Executive Research Forum*  
*Major Cities Chiefs (MCC)*

*Rich Stanek*  
*President*  
*Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCSA)*

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*Executive Director*  
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*Bob Bushman*  
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*National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA)*

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*Scott Burns*  
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*Tim Murray*  
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SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics*

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