

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 14, 2018

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

Thank you for your ongoing and diligent efforts to appropriately rebalance limited resources 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 2019, we respectfully 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. These programs are critical to ensuring that state and local law enforcement have the tools, programs, personnel and resources necessary to protect and serve their communities, including in efforts to prevent further gun violence and help stem the opioid epidemic.

The Byrne JAG and COPS programs are the cornerstone of our 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, keeping our communities safe. Sufficient funding is critical to ensuring that law enforcement has the resources necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the public, because in recent years law enforcement agencies have experienced shrinking budgets and difficult decisions concerning operational readiness and number of officers on patrol.


We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction and we thank you for your work. Support for the Byrne JAG and COPS Hiring programs is imperative to the safety of our communities. These programs supplement the

manpower and incentivize collaboration across agencies necessary to build upon successful crime reduction efforts of the past twenty 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 FY2019 CJS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

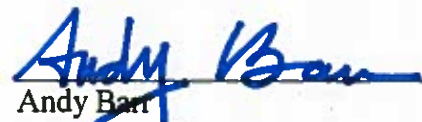
  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress

  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress

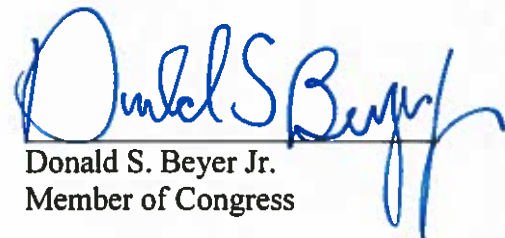
  
Lou Barletta  
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Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley  
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Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos  
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Judy Chu  
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Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock

Barbara Comstock  
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Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly  
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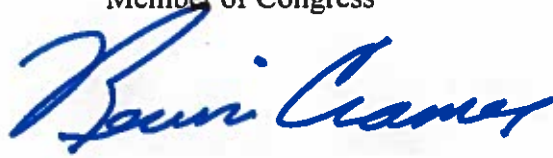
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



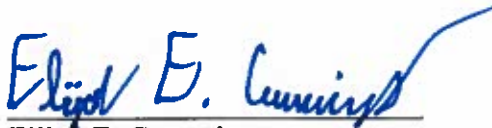
Kevin Cramer  
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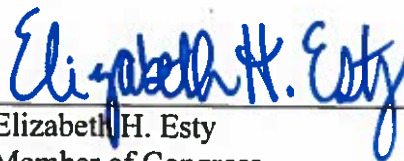
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



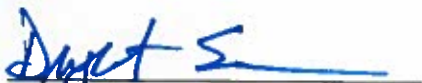
Anna G. Eshoo  
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Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
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Bill Foster  
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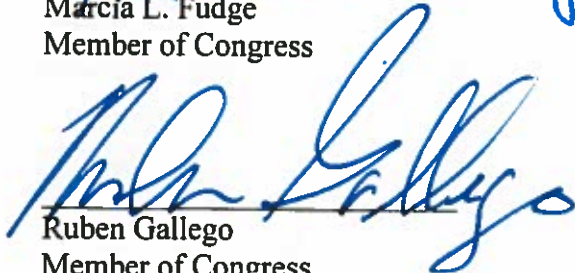
Lois Frankel  
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Vicente Gonzalez  
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Colleen Hanabusa  
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Vicky Hartzler  
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Alcee L. Hastings  
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Denny Heck  
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Jody Hice  
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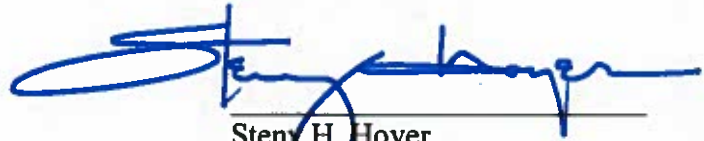
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



French Hill  
Member of Congress



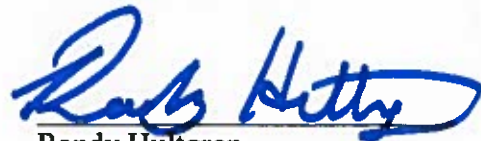
James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



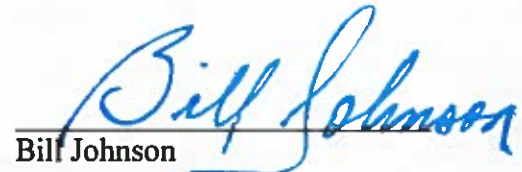
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



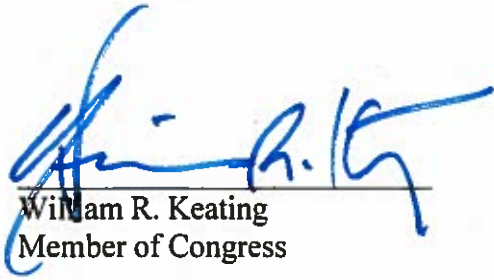
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress

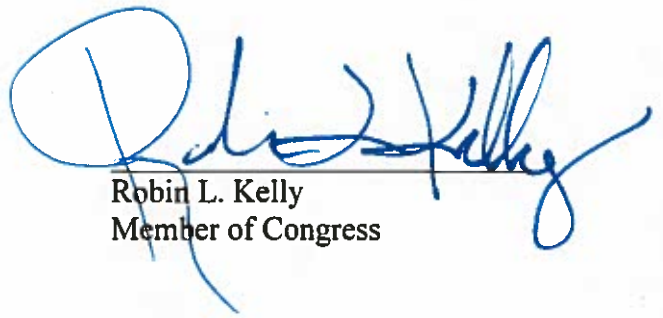


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



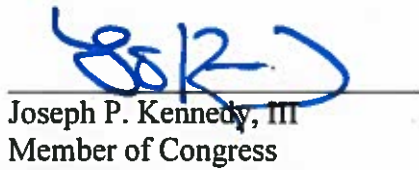
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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress



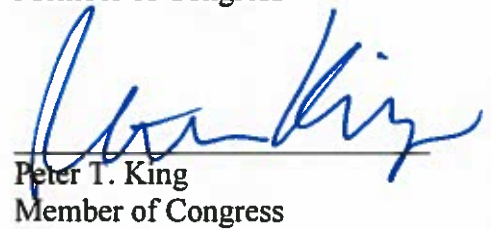
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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



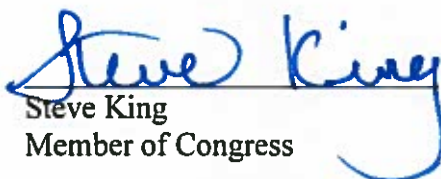
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Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



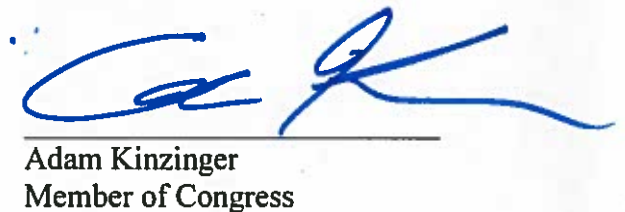
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Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



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Steve King  
Member of Congress



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Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



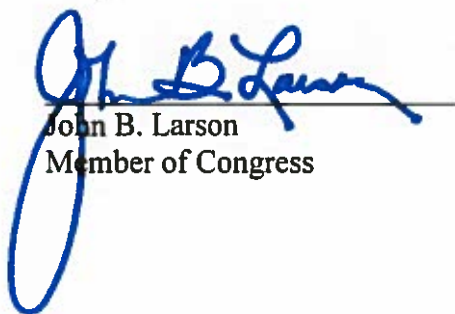
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Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress



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James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
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Sander Levin

Sander Levin  
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John Lewis

John Lewis  
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A. Donald McEachin

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Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney  
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Martha McSally  
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



Owen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



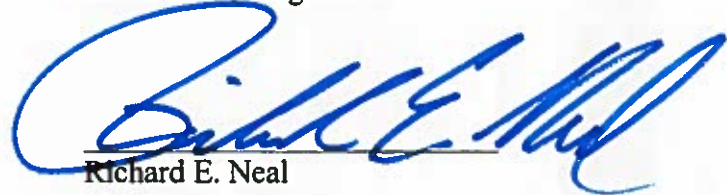
Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



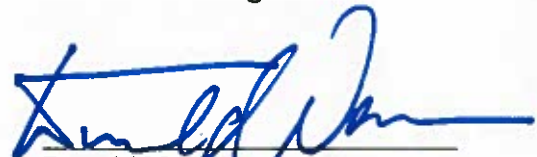
Grace F. Napolitano  
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Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



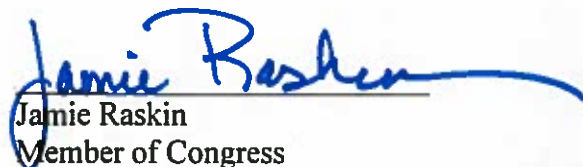
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



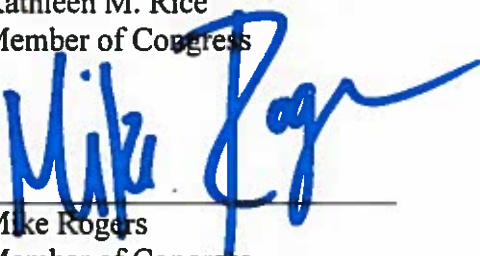
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



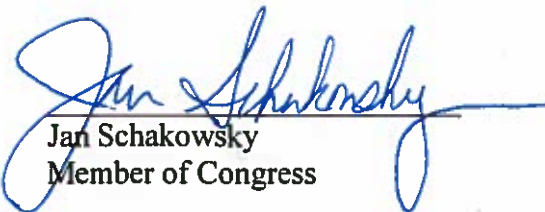
Bobby L. Rush  
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff  
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Bradley S. Schneider  
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David Scott  
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Terri Sewell

Terri A. Sewell  
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Carol Shea-Porter

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Brad Sherman

Brad Sherman  
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Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema  
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Louise Slaughter

Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Jason Smith

Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers

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Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Glenn 'GT' Thompson

Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres

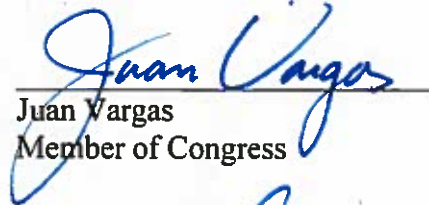
Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas

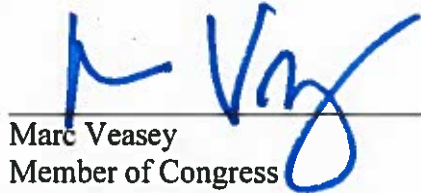
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



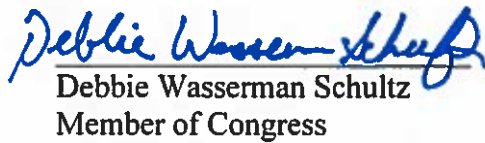
Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



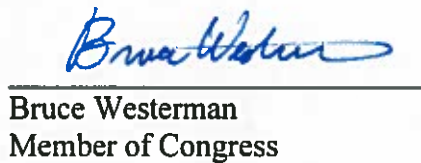
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



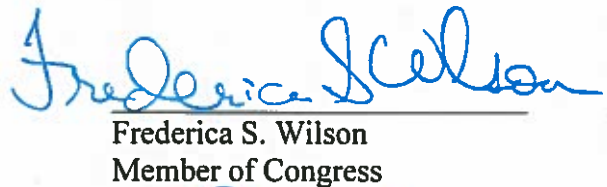
Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



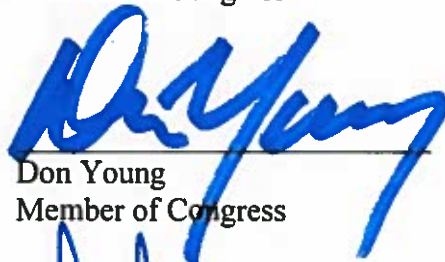
Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



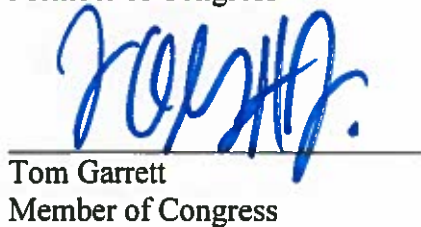
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



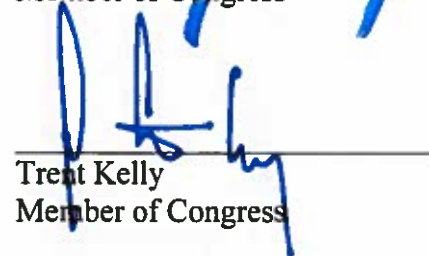
Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress



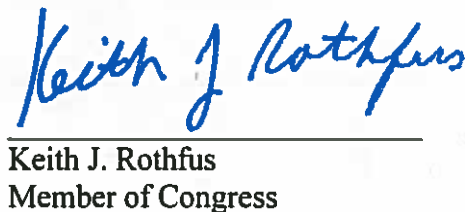
Don Young  
Member of Congress



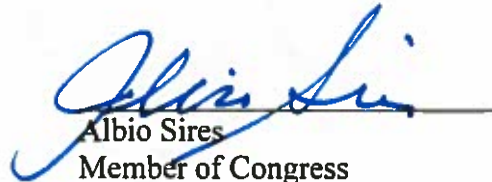
Tom Garrett  
Member of Congress



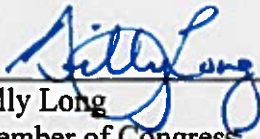
Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



Keith J. Rothfus  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Billy Long  
Member of Congress



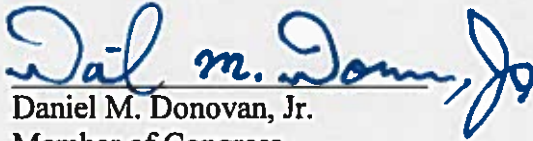
Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter  
Member of Congress



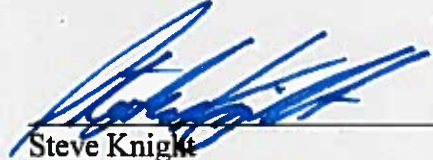
Lucille Roybal-Alford  
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



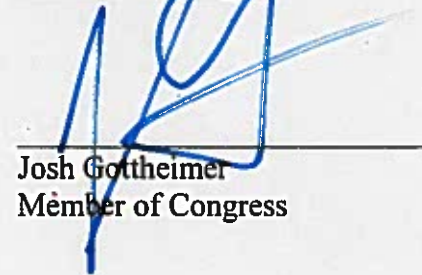
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Member of Congress



Steve Knight  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress