

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2017

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 2018, 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, 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 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 experience 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 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 FY2018 CJS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

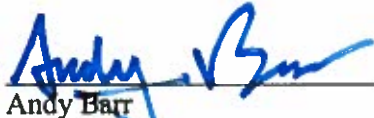
Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



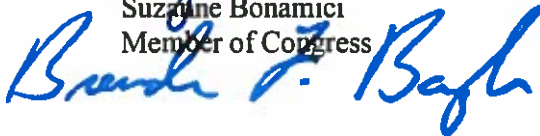
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



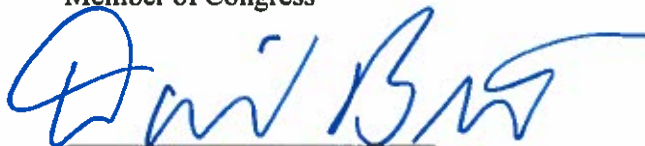
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Dave Brat
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



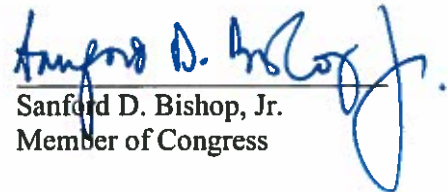
Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



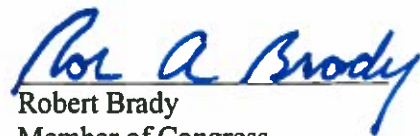
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



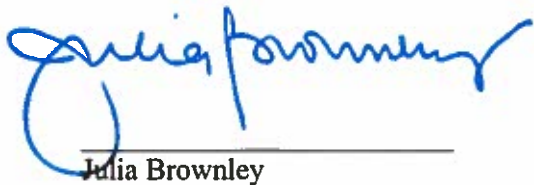
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
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Anthony Brown
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Julia Brownley
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Val Butler Demings
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André Carson
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Kathy Castor
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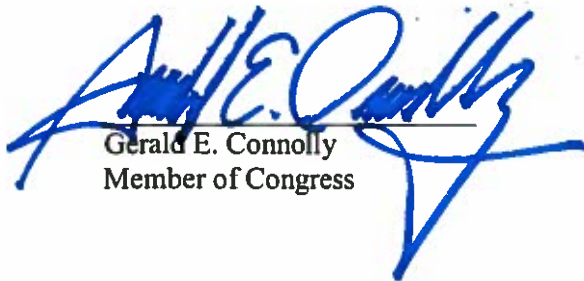
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



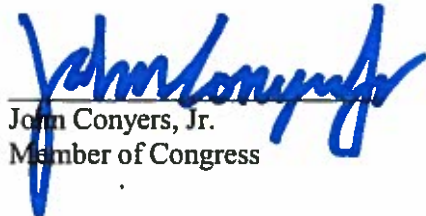
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



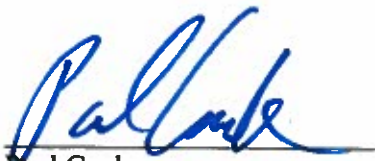
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
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Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress



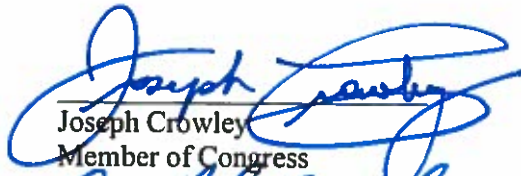
Jody Hice
Member of Congress



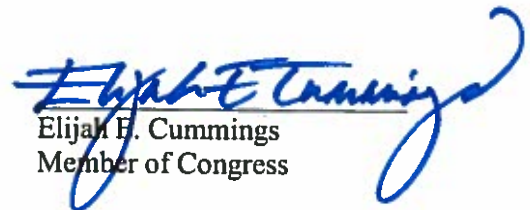
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



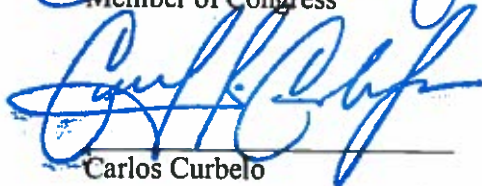
Kevin Cramer
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Carlos Curbelo
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Danny K. Davis
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Rodney Davis
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Diana DeGette
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John K. Delaney
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Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



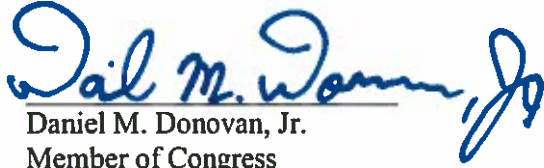
Mark DeSaulnier
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Debbie Dingell
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Keith Ellison
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Eliot L. Engel
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Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



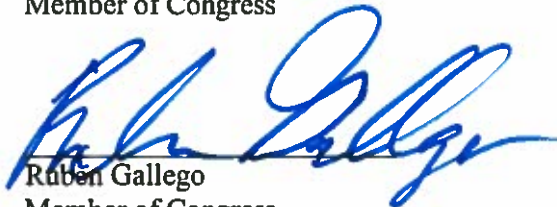
Trent Franks
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Marcia L. Fudge
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Tulsi Gabbard
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Ruben Gallego
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John Garamendi
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Vicente Gonzalez
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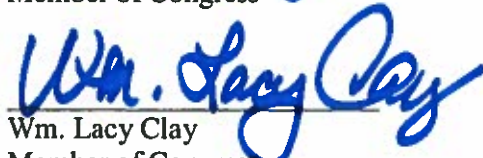

Ruben J. Kihuep
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
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Steve King
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Adam Kinzinger
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Zoe Lofgren
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James P. McGovern

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David B. McKinley, P.E.

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Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster
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Martha McSally

Martha McSally
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan

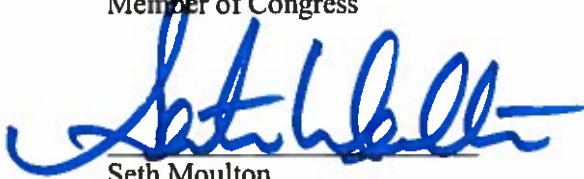
Patrick Meehan
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Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



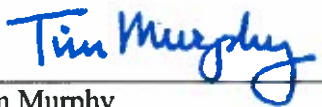
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



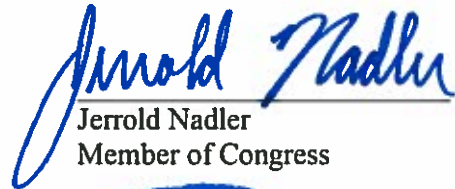
Seth Moulton
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Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
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Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
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Richard Neal
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Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



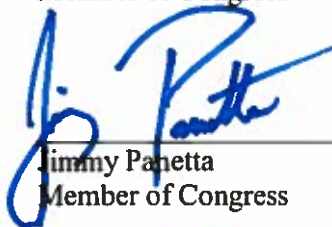
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
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Beto O'Rourke
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Jimmy Panetta
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Sean Patrick Maloney
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Scott Peters
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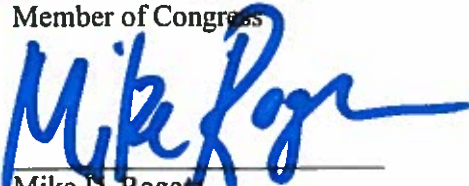
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



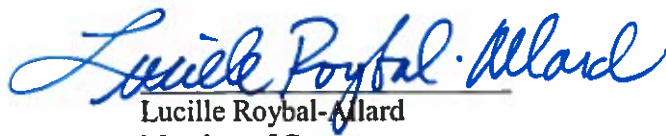
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



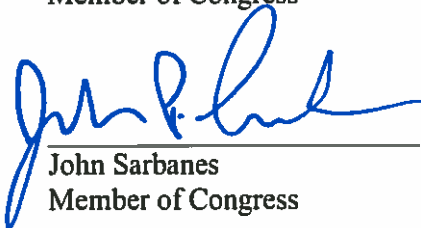
Kathleen M. Rice
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Mike D. Rogers
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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John Sarbanes
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Adam B. Schiff
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Collin C. Peterson
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Mike Quigley
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David P. Roe, M.D.
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Rocky Rosen
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Ram Ruiz
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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
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David Scott
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Robert "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



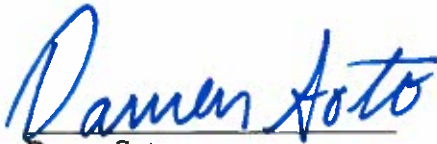
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



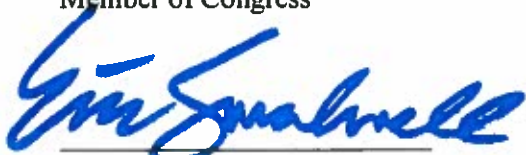
Adam Smith
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Darren Soto
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Steve Silvers
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Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



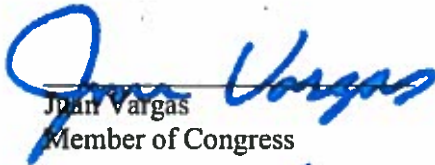
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



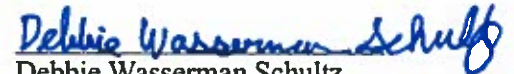
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



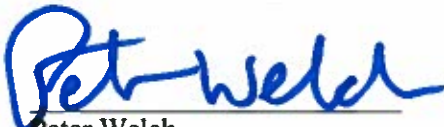
Mark Walker
Member of Congress



Timothy F. Walz
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



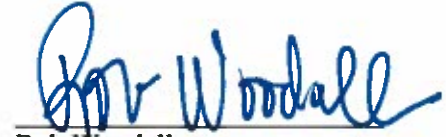
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



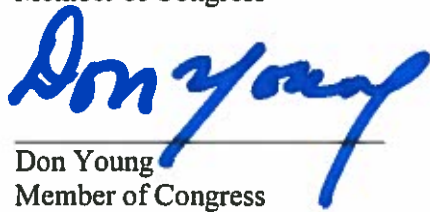
Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
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John Yarmuth
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Don Young
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer

Tom Emmer
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Cedric L. Richmond

Cedric L. Richmond
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Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney
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Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress