

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 29, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright,

As you begin to craft the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), we urge you to include highest possible funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program.

The Byrne JAG and COPS programs are the cornerstone of our federal justice assistance programs. Together, these grants are vital to ensuring state and local law enforcement have the training, tools, and personnel necessary to serve their communities. Since their inception, Byrne JAG and COPS grants have enabled law enforcement agencies to better protect their communities and promote community policing initiatives that form vital bonds between officers and those they serve.

The strength of the Byrne JAG program is in its broad impact across the criminal justice system. Byrne JAG funds are used in states and localities across the country for a variety of important initiatives, including improved tools and technologies, crime prevention and education, cross-criminal justice system information sharing and collaboration, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, alternatives to incarceration, prosecution and indigent defense, crime victim services, recidivism reduction programs designed to stop the cycle of crime, and trainings to improve community policing efforts.

The COPS programs provide invaluable resources to hire and retain community policing professionals, develop and test innovative policing strategies, and provide training to community members and local law enforcement. Since 1994, the COPS office has allocated more than \$14 billion to local departments to help advance community policing. In recent years, Congress has passed legislation to enhance the ability of the COPS Program to support state and local law enforcement. Many of these measures were sponsored by Members of the Committee, such as the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act and the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act, the National Blue Alert Network, expanded access to active shooter training through the POLICE Act, and activities authorized by the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act. These programs are vital to state and local law enforcement's ability to serve and protect our communities efficiently and effectively.

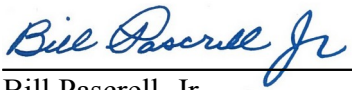
Given the extraordinary pressures of inflation, providing the highest possible funding for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs is essential to ensuring that law enforcement has the resources necessary to continue these important community policing efforts that build bonds and make our communities safer.

These programs provide critical federal dollars to build upon successful crime reduction efforts and ensure officers maintain strong relationships with their communities. As many police departments across our nation confront worsening gun violence, ensuring that our federal policing grants are robustly funded is all the more crucial.

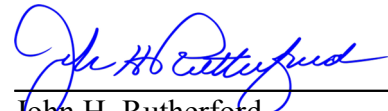
Support for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs is imperative to the safety of our communities and improving policing in our nation, yet funding for both programs have seen cuts over the past twelve years and must be restored to previous levels.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you include the highest possible funding for the Byrne JAG and COPS Hiring Programs in FY25.

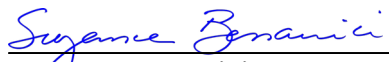
Sincerely,



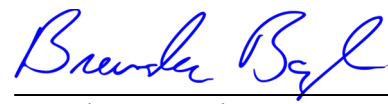
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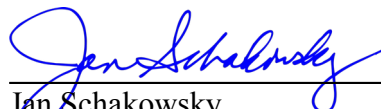
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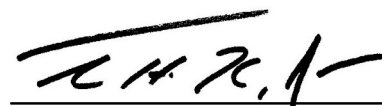
Nicole Malliotakis
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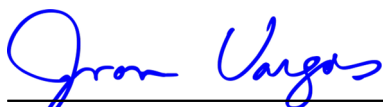
Pete Stauber
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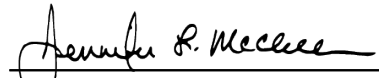
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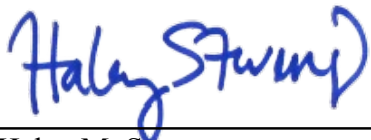
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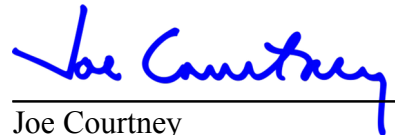
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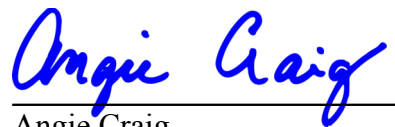
Haley M. Stevens
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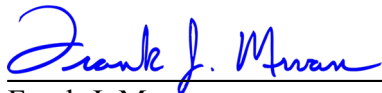
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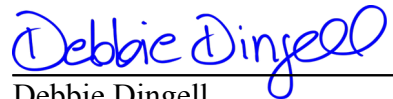
Mikie Sherrill
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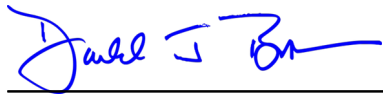
Steve Cohen
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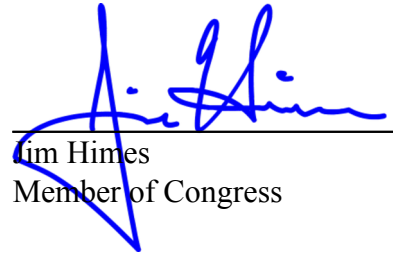
Don Bacon
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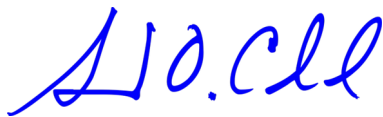
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



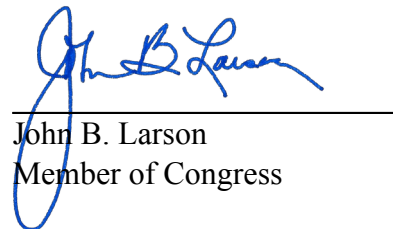
Lizzie Fletcher
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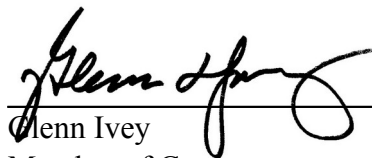
Salud Carbajal
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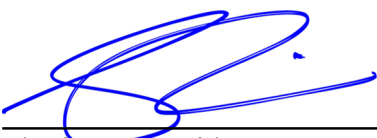
Glenn Ivey
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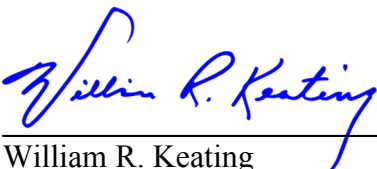
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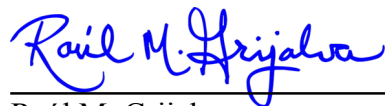
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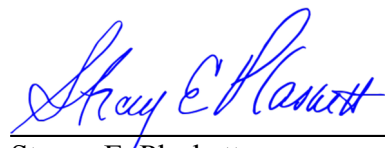
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



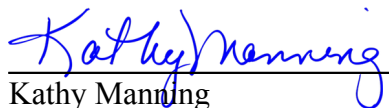
Frank Pallone, Jr.
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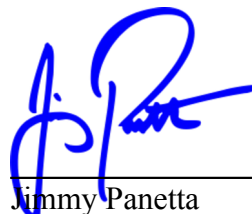
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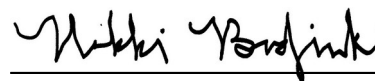
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Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



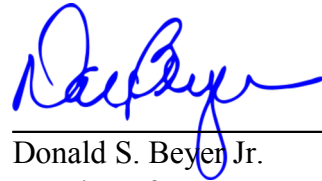
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Eric Swalwell
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Mike Thompson
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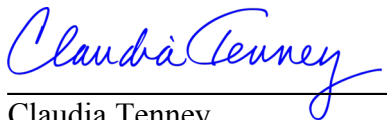
Chris Deluzio
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André Carson
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David Scott
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Claudia Tenney
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Doris Matsui
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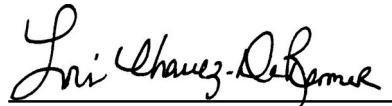
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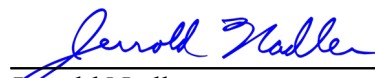
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Dwight Evans
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Rick Larsen
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Jerrold Nadler
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Zoe Lofgren
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Mike Levin
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Brad Finstad
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Darin LaHood
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Brian Fitzpatrick
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
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Cory Mills
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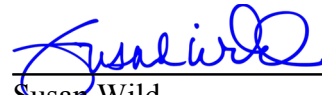
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



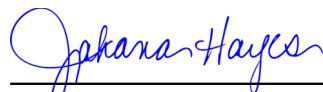
Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress



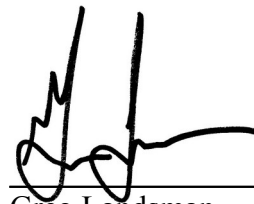
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



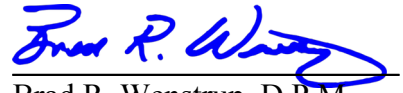
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



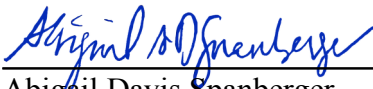
Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
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Ruben Gallego
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Abigail Davis Spanberger
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Laurel M. Lee
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