

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

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

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

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Aderholdt,

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 2021, we respectfully urge you to include increased 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. Increased 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 further support the COPS Office remaining a robust and independent office within the Department of Justice.

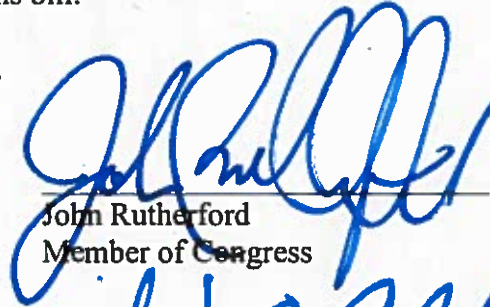
We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction and we thank you for your work. Support for the Byrne JAG and COPS Hiring programs is imperative to the safety of our communities. These programs supplement the

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 increased funding for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs, especially the COPS Hiring program, in the FY2021 CJS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress




John Rutherford
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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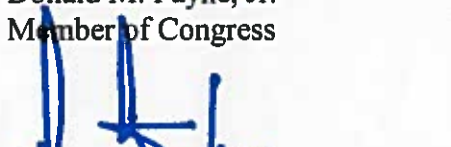

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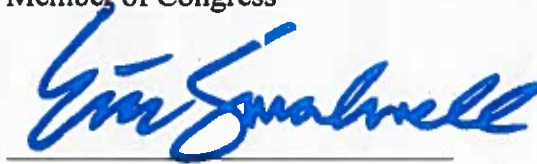

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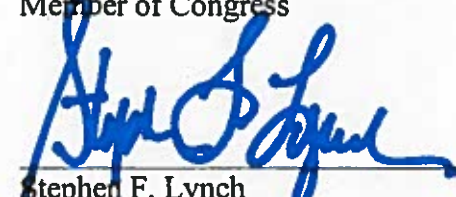

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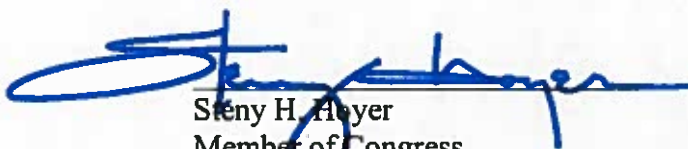

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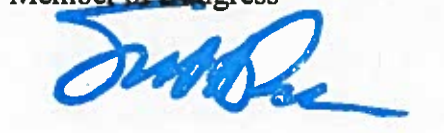

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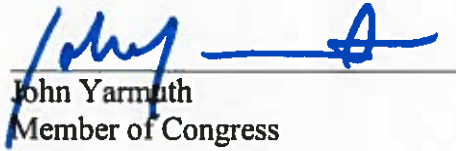
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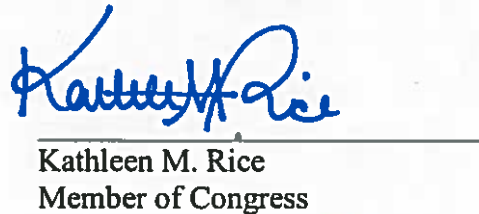
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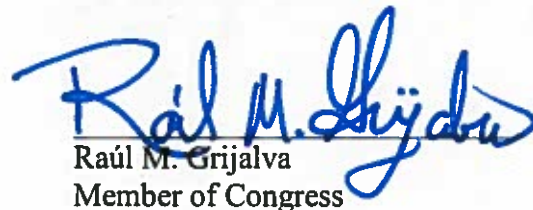
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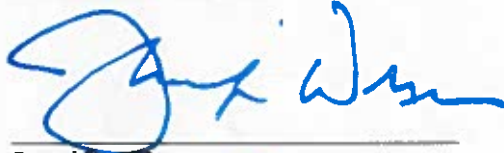
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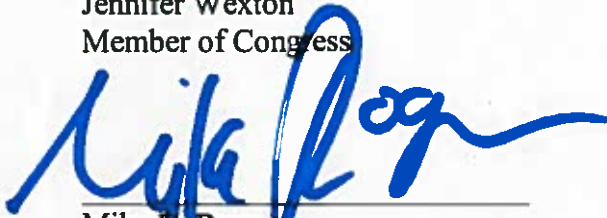
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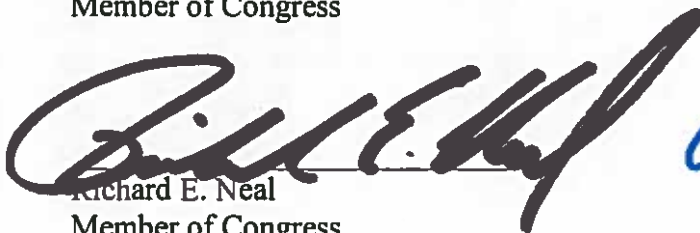
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Tony Cárdenas
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Stephanie Murphy
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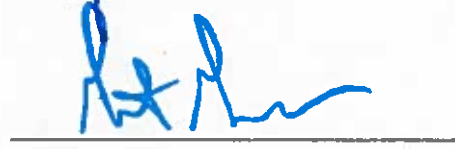

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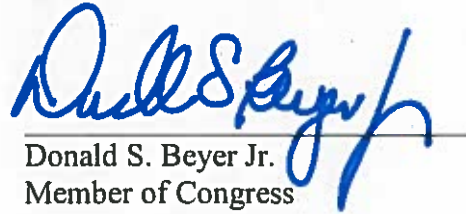
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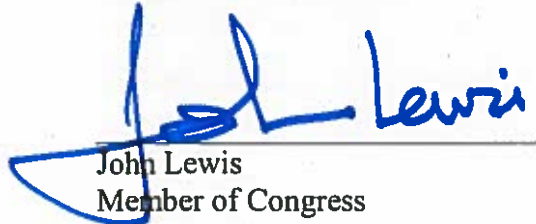
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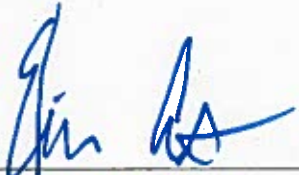
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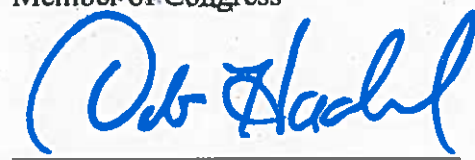
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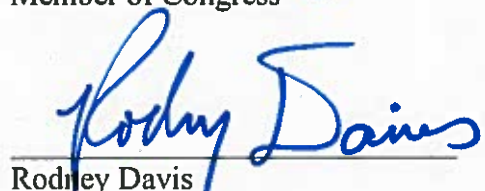
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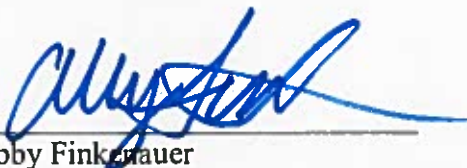
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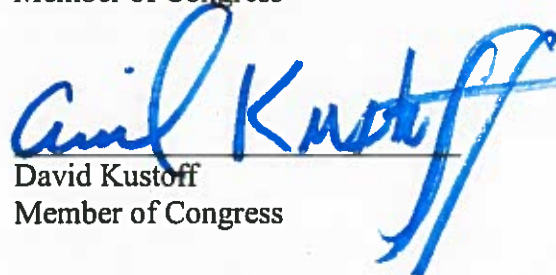


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Member of Congress

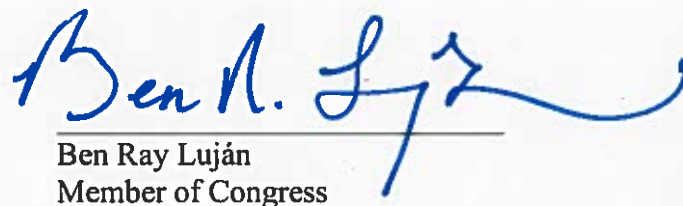


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Barbara Lee
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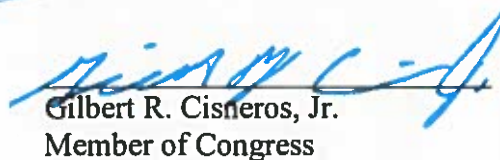
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Debbie Dingell
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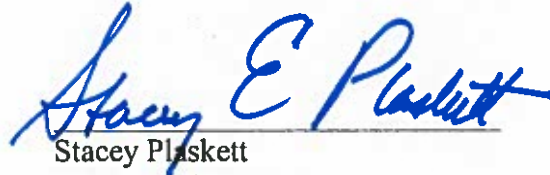
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Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher
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Filemon Vela
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Abigail D. Spanberger
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Shella Jackson Lee

Shella Jackson Lee
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A. Donald McEachin
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