

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 31, 2023

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,

We write today to thank you for the increase in funding for local law enforcement grant programs in FY23. As you begin to craft the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriation bill for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), 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 critical 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. Given the extraordinary pressures of inflation, providing the highest possible funding for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs is critical to ensuring that law enforcement has the resources necessary to continue these important community policing efforts that build bonds and make our communities safer.

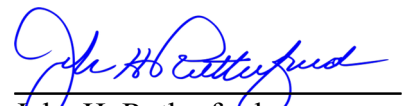
These programs provide critical federal dollars to build upon successful crime reduction efforts and ensure officers maintain strong relationships with their communities. As many police departments across our nation continue to confront worsening gun violence, the importance of ensuring our federal policing 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 continued efforts to improve 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 FY24.

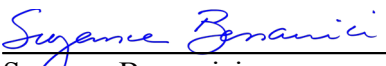
Sincerely,


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

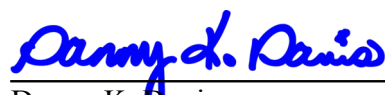

David Scott
Member of Congress

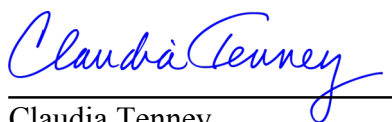

Mark DeSaulnier
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Brian Higgins
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Andy Kim
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

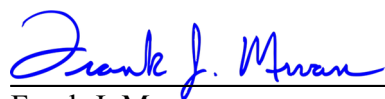

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


Bill Johnson
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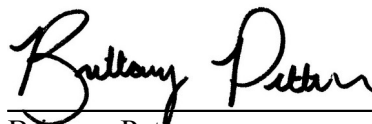

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Don Bacon
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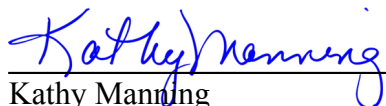
Marilyn Strickland
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Kathy Manning
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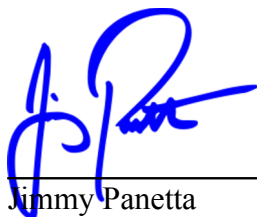
Brendan F. Boyle
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Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



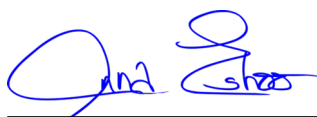
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Glenn "GT" Thompson
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Chrissy Houlahan
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Vicente Gonzalez
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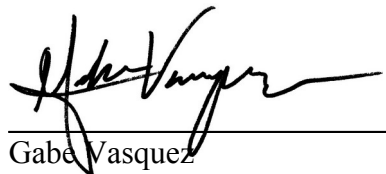
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



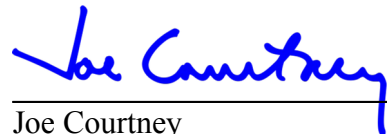
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



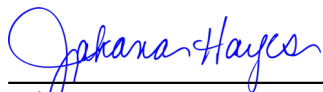
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



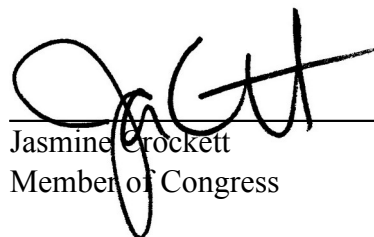
Gabe Vasquez
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Joe Courtney
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Jahana Hayes
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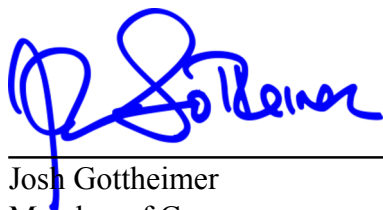
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



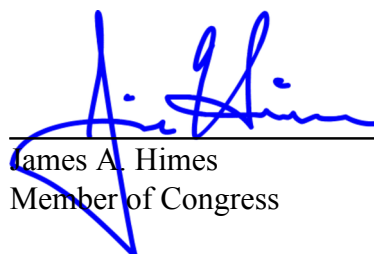
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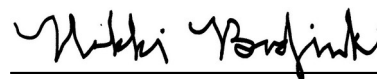
Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Nikki Budzinski
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Christopher H. Smith
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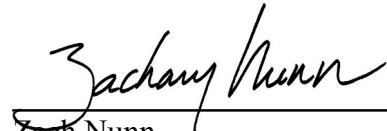
Daniel Webster
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Michael Waltz
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Zach Nunn
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Anthony D'Esposito
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Robin L. Kelly
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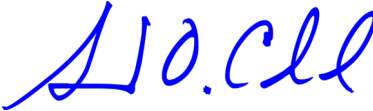
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
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Marcus J. Molinaro
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Terri A. Sewell
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Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



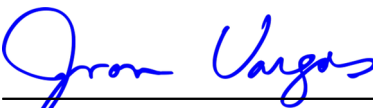
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
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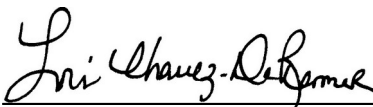
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



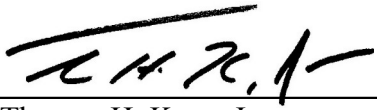
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
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Lucy McBath
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Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Sharice L. Davids
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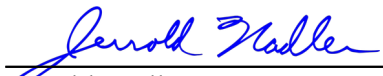
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



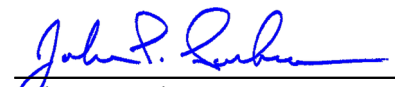
Aaron Bean
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons, IV
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Jerrold Nadler
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John P. Sarbanes
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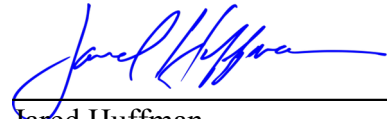
Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



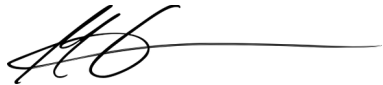
Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



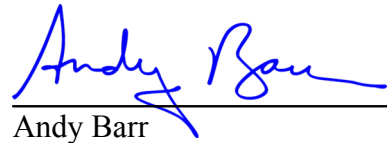
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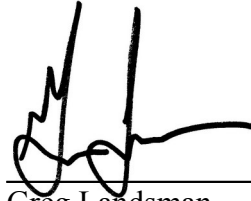
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Michelle Fischbach
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André Carson
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
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Gerald E. Connolly
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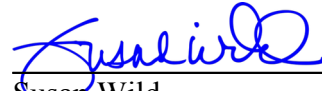
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress




John B. Larson
Member of Congress



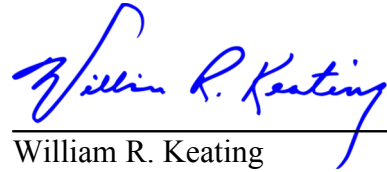
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



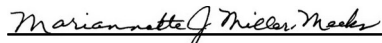
Susan Wild
Member of Congress



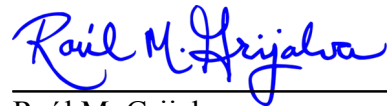
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
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Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Abigail Davis Spanberger
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Cory Mills
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Patrick K. Ryan
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Nick LaLota
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