



July 1, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the undersigned national law enforcement organizations, we write to express our appreciation to the Committee for including steady funding for priority state and local law enforcement grant programs in the House Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) bill. Continued support for essential public safety grant programs, including the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) programs, is vital in assisting our members with protecting communities across the nation.

While we appreciate the Committee's efforts to fund state and local law enforcement assistance grant programs, there is an urgent need for additional resources to address current challenges faced by law enforcement agencies. Federally funded state and local law enforcement assistance grant programs play a crucial role in fostering collaboration and innovation among public safety agencies. These resources are critical to support law enforcement at all levels, fulfilling the most fundamental responsibility of government - protecting the people.

Additional resources will bolster our ongoing efforts to combat drug and human trafficking, terrorism, violent crime, and gun violence. The resources will also enhance our ability to provide high-quality training to state and local law enforcement to respond to increasingly challenging environments, develop strategies for individuals affected by mental health and substance use disorders, establish and expand mental health and wellness services for our officers, and continue programs aimed at reducing recidivism.

Furthermore, we urge the Committee to maintain funding for our federal partner agencies, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Federal law enforcement officers play a crucial role in combating violent crime, terrorism, and the trafficking of dangerous narcotics in U.S. cities and towns. These

agencies provide essential tools and support to assist state and local law enforcement agencies with tackling complex challenges. Reduced resources for these agencies would undoubtedly hinder our ability to collaborate and ensure public safety.

For instance, the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), administered by ATF, is indispensable in matching shell casings from crime guns, thereby enhancing our capability to swiftly address gun violence and solve violent crimes. This tool and other critical investigative technologies and resources will likely be scaled back if our partner agencies incur significant funding cuts.

Moreover, funding cuts could worsen the officer retention crisis currently faced by the Department of Justice (DOJ) across its component law enforcement agencies. Understaffing not only harms officer and community safety but it also jeopardizes the ability of DOJ component agencies to participate in important federal-state-local task forces.

We appreciate your continued commitment to supporting law enforcement through the appropriations process. By ensuring adequate funding for priority grant programs and maintaining support for essential federal partners, we can collectively strengthen public safety and protect our communities.

We stand ready to provide any information needed as you review a path forward on the FY 2025 CJS spending measure.

Sincerely,

Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)
National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition (NNOAC)
Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD