



Top 5 Legislative Priorities

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) advocates for prosecutors on the front lines of public safety by supporting bipartisan proposals to make communities safer and opposing legislation detrimental to prosecutors and law enforcement. As the second session of the 118th Congress gets underway, these legislation and funding battles are at the forefront of our advocacy efforts.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Funding

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is the primary source of federal funding for thousands of victim service providers across the nation, including programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking, and drunk driving. VOCA grants also fund victim compensation, which helps survivors pay medical bills, makes up for missed wages, and, in the most severe cases, helps pay for funeral costs.

President Biden's Fiscal Year 2024 budget request allocated \$1.2 billion, compared to \$1.9 billion approved in Fiscal Year 2023 by Congress. The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$1.2 billion dollars on July 13, 2023 for Fiscal Year 2024, and the House Appropriations Committee is proposing the same reduction.

NDAA opposes the proposed cuts to VOCA funding and asks Members to support the full \$1.9 billion level from FY23. Additionally, NDAA supports a more comprehensive solution to the declining deposits in the Crime Victims Fund. Exploring additional mechanisms for funding the Crimes Victims Fund is critical to reverse declining deposits.

Prosecutor Recruitment and Retention

NDAA is currently working with Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) on legislation that will aid the recruitment and retention of prosecutors. Prosecutors have struggled to clear a national backlog of cases caused by the pandemic and suffering from staffing shortages. In addition, there is a steep decline in applications for prosecutor positions with non-competitive salaries as a contributing factor. The legislation would establish a grant program to assist in the hiring of prosecutors and include training of new prosecutors and technical assistance. The legislation also addresses the rehiring of prosecutors laid off due to local budget reductions.

NDAA asks members to co-sponsor the legislation upon introduction.





Combatting Organized Retail Crime Act (S. 140/H.R. 895)

The ***Combatting Organized Retail Crime Act*** would establish the Organized Retail Crime Coordination Center under the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate Federal, State, local, and Tribal efforts to combat organized retail crime and create new tools to tackle evolving trends in organized retail theft, which cost retailers—and ultimately consumers—billions of dollars every year. The Organized Retail Crime Coordination Center will focus on federal law enforcement activities related to organized retail crime, including investigations of national and transnational criminal organizations that are engaged in organized retail crime. Establishing relationships, assisting with investigations, and sharing information with state and local law enforcement agencies and retail organizations, including organized retail crime associations, will be central to the mandate of the newly-established coordination center.

NDAAs supports this legislation and is advocating for local prosecutors to be added into the proposed bill as part of the Organized Retail Crime Coordination Center.

Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS), and Related Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 5893)

The ***Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS), and Related Appropriations Act of 2024*** provides \$58.7 billion in fiscal year 2024 (\$75.9 billion dollars allocated in FY23) and includes \$32.6 billion to the Department of Justice (DOJ), which is 4 percent (\$1.2 billion) below the fiscal year 2023 budget.

The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$71.7 billion dollars on July 13, 2023 for fiscal year 2024 and includes \$37.9 billion to DOJ.

H.R. 5893 would result in a reduction of at least 20% (\$23.8 billion) for fiscal year 2024. Additionally, the current House CJS Appropriations bill proposes eliminating programs for alternatives to policing, prosecution, and incarceration which could eliminate funding for diversion programs by a District Attorney's office.

NDAAs opposes funding levels proposed for DOJ under House CJS Appropriations bill H.R. 5893 for fiscal year 2024.

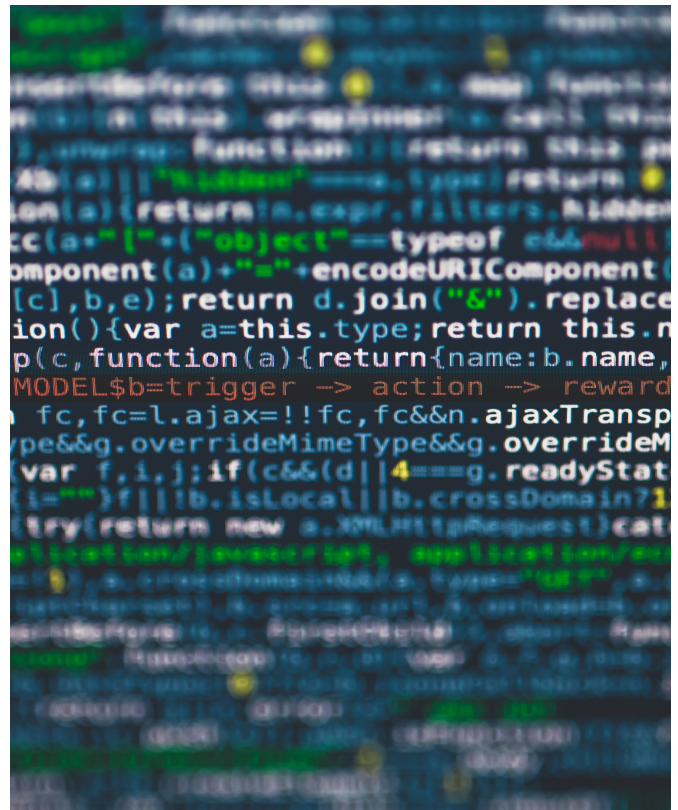


FAIR ACT (H.R. 1525) & FANFSA (H.R. 4639)

The **Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration (FAIR) Act of 2023** ends the “Equitable Sharing Program” and prevents the federal government from sharing net proceeds from forfeited property with state and local law enforcement agencies. The net proceeds from forfeited property will be transferred to the U.S. Treasury. In addition, forfeiture proceeding notifications to property owners must be within 7 days (currently 60 days) and will increase the government’s burden of proof from a “preponderance of the evidence” standard to a “clear and convincing evidence” standard. The FAIR Act passed unanimously out of the House Judiciary Committee on June 14, 2023.

The **Fourth Amendment is Not for Sale Act (FANFSA)** would enact a probable cause requirement for law enforcement agencies to access third-party data collected by external providers that do not have any direct relationship with consumers. The data is collected from various platforms, mobile phone apps, and websites. This legislation will produce significant public safety consequences and restrict law enforcement’s access to critical investigative information that is utilized every day to combat violent and serious crimes such as murder, kidnapping, drug trafficking, human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, terrorism, and threats of mass violence. Preventing law enforcement from being able to access this data efficiently will make communities less safe. The Fourth Amendment is Not for Sale Act passed unanimously out of the House Judiciary Committee on July 19, 2023.

NDAA opposes H.R. 1525 and H.R. 4639 and is actively working with its law enforcement partners and stakeholders in opposition.



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