



September 27, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
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

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairwoman Murray, and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of the undersigned national law enforcement organizations, we write to respectfully urge robust funding for state and local law enforcement in the (FY) 2024 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations measures. This funding will provide necessary resources to assist our members with protecting communities across the nation.

Local and state taxpayers bear primary responsibility for keeping our communities safe - they provide over 95 percent of all funding for police. However, federally funded state and local law enforcement assistance grant programs are uniquely important because they enable collaboration and innovation among public safety agencies. These resources fill a critical role in supporting law enforcement efforts at all levels to carry out the most fundamental responsibility of government - protecting the people.

Federal grant funding supports efforts to enforce laws against drug and human trafficking, combat terrorism, and investigate violent and other serious crime. As long as drug traffickers cross our international borders and engage in their business of illicit poison distribution across

state lines, the federal government has a fundamental responsibility to support the efforts of local and state law enforcement in communities where the damage is done.

Moreover, local agencies that are struggling with officer retention and recruitment must focus on the basics of patrolling their communities and responding to calls for service. That means fewer local officers are available to contribute to federal task forces focused on drug trafficking, fugitive apprehension, human trafficking, and terrorism. Significant cuts to state and local law enforcement grant programs would reduce cooperation between federal, state, and local law enforcement at a time when this collaboration needs to be expanded.

In addition, reduced funding for state and local law enforcement will limit our ability to address violent crime, reduce gun violence, and provide quality training to state and local law enforcement to respond to increasingly challenging environments. A decrease in funding would also hinder public safety agencies' ability to access critical resources to develop strategies to treat those suffering with mental health and substance use issues and continue programs to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals. Resources are necessary as state and local law enforcement continue to play a primary role in combatting the opioid epidemic, which has tragically claimed the lives of over 100,000 people over the past year.

We are dedicated to ongoing work with Congress, the Administration, and stakeholders across the criminal justice system as lawmakers make difficult decisions in a challenging fiscal environment. We stand ready to support you and provide any information needed as you review a path forward on the FY 2024 CJS and DHS spending measures.

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 Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)
National Fusion Center Association (NFCA)
National HIDTA Directors Association (NHDA)
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)
National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
Sergeants Benevolent Association, NYPD (SBA)

cc:

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader Steve Scalise
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries