

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 10, 2022

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
304 Russel Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

We write to thank you for your strong and consistent support of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program in the past. We write to ask that you fund the program at the highest possible level in the fiscal year 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

As thoughtful stewards of taxpayer money, we must continually assess where federal support is necessary and appropriate. It is clear to us that the strong foundation of federal, state, and local partnerships built from the Byrne JAG program remains as vital as ever. Through Byrne JAG, the Department of Justice plays a crucial role in spurring innovation and testing cost-effective, evidence-based approaches to fighting crime and reducing recidivism.

One of the highest responsibilities of government is to protect its citizens and ensure public safety. As such, Byrne JAG's strength in flexibility is paramount to fighting crime. States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to focus on the most pressing issues facing them. For instance, regional, national, and international gangs and drug trafficking organizations continue to drive the crime on our streets, embedding criminal activity and furthering the addiction and drug overdose crisis across the country. Byrne JAG-funded programs facilitate cross-governmental intelligence and information sharing on terror and criminal threats, drug and human trafficking organizations, and sexual predators. This collaboration is essential to disrupt today's criminal networks that cross city, state, and even international boundaries. With over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., cross-jurisdictional learning and coordination cannot happen effectively without federal support.

Furthermore, crime control and prevention can be truly successful only when the criminal justice system is in balance, with all of the parts functioning effectively. Byrne JAG's flexibility allows state and local governments to target their most pressing needs and innovate across the justice system, including in law enforcement, prevention, pretrial services and treatment, courts, corrections, crime victims' services, prosecution and defense, and post-incarceration reentry services. Byrne JAG also leverages the massive investment that already occurs regularly in these programs at the state and local level.

Since 2005, the Byrne JAG program has successfully funded advances in policing, information technology, recidivism reduction programming, pretrial diversion to treatment, better coordination between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems, and cross-jurisdictional coordination, each of which plays an integral role in decreasing the overall crime rate. States continue to rely on Byrne JAG's flexibility to apply the program tools that best address the needs of localities. Despite this progress, we must not become complacent when it comes to our citizens' safety and well-being. Federal support for Byrne JAG and state and local law enforcement is our first line of defense against criminals and the Byrne JAG program is vital in combating crimes of all types.

We know of your steadfast commitment to the Byrne JAG program in years past, and we appreciate that you have begun in recent years to restore funding to the program. We ask for that support to continue in the fiscal year 2023 CJS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator

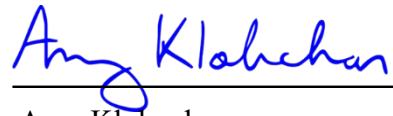


Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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John Hoeven  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Bill Cassidy  
United States Senator



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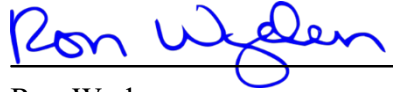
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



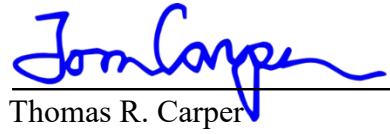
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



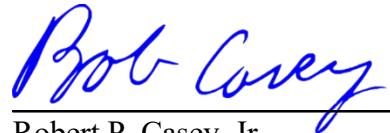
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



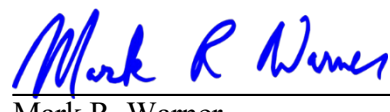
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



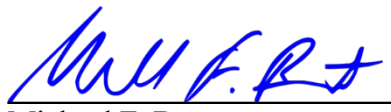
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



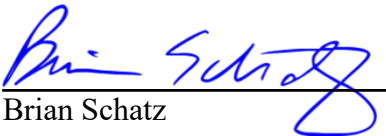
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



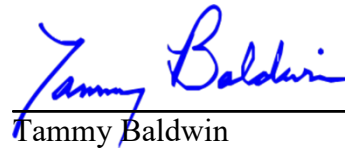
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



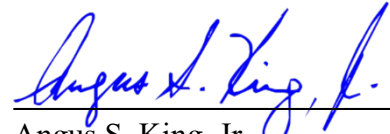
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



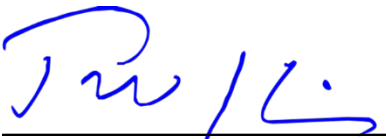
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



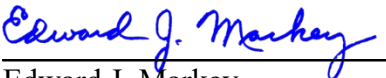
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



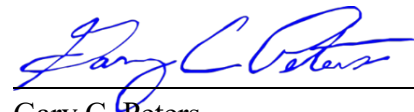
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



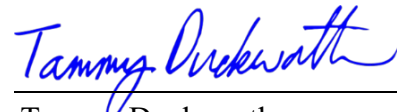
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



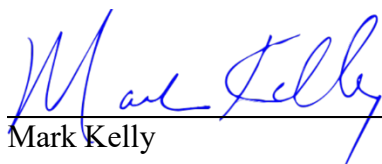
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



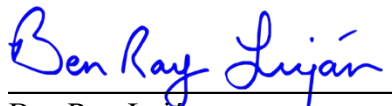
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



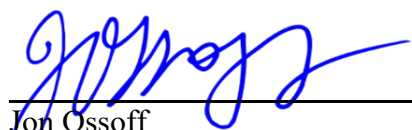
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



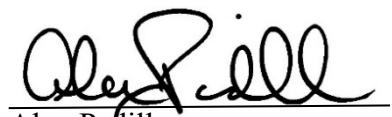
Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



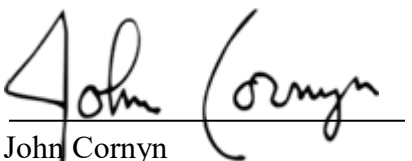
John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator