



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

Executive Director

July 8, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express support for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne JAG).

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

We recognize the many competing pressures upon you as you seek to prioritize funding for many important programs across the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) bill. We write today to respectfully ask that Byrne JAG be supported at least at level funding in the FY14 appropriations bill.

Byrne JAG is the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, supporting the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation, as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices nationwide. States and localities use Byrne JAG to test emerging and evidence-based approaches to the public safety challenges in their jurisdictions. Because Byrne JAG is flexible, states and local communities are able to use funding to address needs and fill gaps across the entire criminal justice system – in prevention, enforcement, courts, prosecution and defense, corrections, victim assistance, and other community support. This flexibility is the hallmark of the Byrne JAG program and is vitally important because only when the criminal justice system is in balance can the system function with efficiency and effectiveness.

Moreover, Byrne JAG grants have been the catalyst for building collaboration within communities and across states, including the critical role multijurisdictional drug task forces play in rising above a focus on day-to-day local crime so as to target larger, regional drug trafficking organizations. This task force model is now being replicated across the country to tackle other

cross-boundary crimes, such as human trafficking and cyber crime, while saving money and increasing efficiency in the process.

The reductions in funding to the Byrne JAG program in FY10 and FY11 exacted a toll on crime prevention and crime fighting initiatives in communities across the country. We respectfully request that you protect Byrne JAG from further cuts in the FY14 appropriations cycle. If NAPO can provide any additional information to support this program, please do not hesitate to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director