

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2011

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Conrad and Ranking Member Sessions:

We write to express our support for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program, and request that you fund it at \$600 million in the FY 2012 Senate Budget Resolution, the amount requested in the President's budget. We understand that you face tough decisions as you work to cut spending and impose fiscal transparency. Please keep in mind that during this time of economic distress and job loss, the COPS program will immediately put people to work with the added benefit of helping to make our communities safer.

The COPS program has put more than 120,000 community police officers on the beat since 1995. Experts cite this program as an important factor in driving down crime for eight consecutive years in the 1990s. As state and local budget shortfalls lead to officer lay-offs and law enforcement fatalities rise, fewer officers are walking the beat and federal support of this program is more critical than ever.

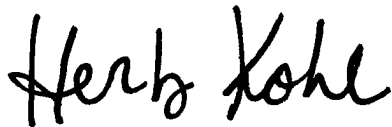
By hiring more officers, we will be better able to combat the crime that harms our economy. Officers walking the beat are able to establish partnerships with the community to solve local problems. They partner with local businesses to address the crime and fear of crime that too often drives businesses from distressed neighborhoods, taking with them economic opportunity. They collaborate with parents, teachers and other community members to keep at-risk youth from slipping into a life of cycling in and out of the prison system. Preventing crime from occurring in the first place saves taxpayers the costs associated with incarceration and victims services. For these reasons, a recent report by the Brookings Institution found that the COPS program is "one of the most cost-effective options available for fighting crime."

We are supported in this request by law enforcement organizations representing nearly 500,000 state, local and tribal law enforcement officers across the nation, including the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Fraternal Order of Police, International Union of Police Associations, Major County Chiefs' Association, Major County Sheriffs' Association, National Association of Police Organizations, National Narcotics Officers Association Coalition, National Sheriffs' Association, and National Troopers Coalition.

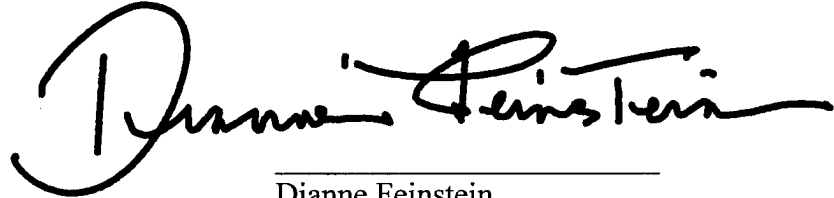
It is clear that by making a commitment to the COPS hiring program in the Budget Resolution, we will continue to help our communities reap the benefits of lower crime rates and

safer communities. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you on these important issues during the FY 2012 budget request.

Sincerely,



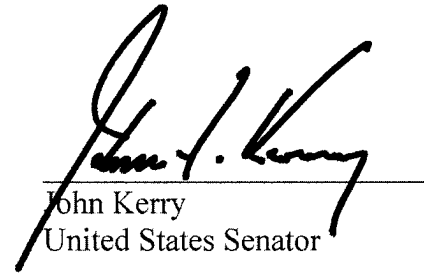
Herb Kohl
United States Senator



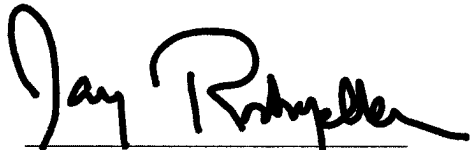
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



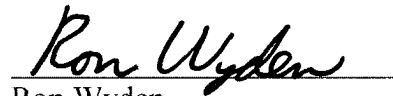
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



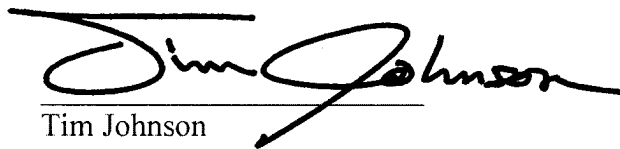
John Kerry
United States Senator



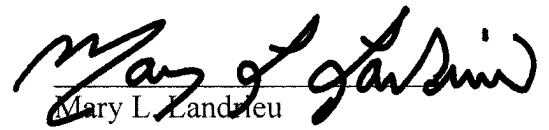
John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator



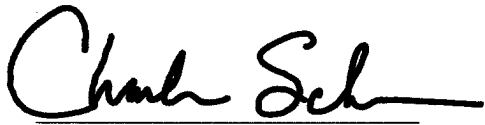
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Tim Johnson
United States Senator



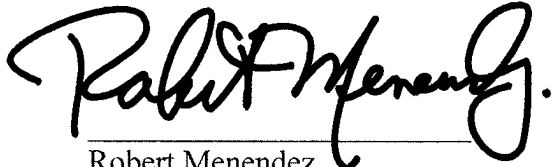
Mary L. Landrau
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator



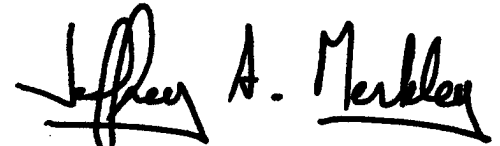
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Christopher Coons
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator