

June 5, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
2301 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Mikulski and Shelby and Congressmen Wolf and Fattah:

We, the undersigned national groups representing a broad cross-section of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, thank you for your strong, consistent and thoughtful leadership in the United States Congress on federal assistance to state and local evidence-based criminal justice programming, in particular the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG). 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. As you know, funding for the Byrne JAG program was reduced by over one-third in the FY10 and FY11 funding cycles. We are grateful to you for sparing the program from further cuts in the FY13 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act. 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.

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) surveys the State Administering Agencies (SAAs) annually, gathering a wealth of information about how states and local governments allocate Byrne JAG funding to meet system needs. From that survey, we know that Byrne JAG dollars were invested broadly across all segments of the criminal justice system in FY11, and that two thirds of the states invested in at least four of these seven statutorily defined purpose areas:

- 52 percent for law enforcement (including operations, multijurisdictional task forces, equipment, overtime, information technology, juvenile delinquency prevention, anti-gang programs, etc.);
- 11 percent for prosecution and courts (including problem-solving courts and indigent defense);
- 7 percent for prevention and education programming;

- 11 percent for corrections, including community-based corrections;
- 5 percent for drug treatment and enforcement;
- 12 percent for technology, planning and evaluation; and
- 2 percent for crime victim and witness programs.

In most states, grants are made using a peer-reviewed, competitive application process based on a statewide strategic plan developed in conjunction with the state's system stakeholders. In partnership with the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the SAAs are engaged in a concerted strategy to increase investment in evidence-based programs and innovative strategies and practices that are measured and can be replicated. Because of these efforts, Byrne JAG is advancing the evidence-based practices movement within the criminal justice field at a remarkable pace.

Byrne JAG grants have also 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 all 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.

Byrne JAG grantees collect data and measure the effectiveness of their efforts that they report to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and to the SAA. From October 2008 through September 2011, Byrne JAG grantees reported:

- Over 5,000 drug trafficking organizations disrupted;
- 19,066 state and 2,612 federal forfeiture cases filed;
- Nearly 156,000 individuals completed anti-bullying programs, drug prevention programs, community seminars about the court system and laws, at-risk youth summer camps, residential programs for alcohol and/or substance abuse problems, reentry, and other programs;
- 7,739 gang members arrested for a felony and another nearly 3,000 arrested for a serious misdemeanor;
- Over 500,000 hours of overtime paid to police, prosecutors, social workers, clinical staff; and
- Approximately 600 multijurisdictional task forces funded nationwide which reported the seizure of 2.3 million pounds of drugs (for the time period July 2010 through July 2011), the majority of which are large seizures, including:
  - 2,787 lbs. (1,264 kg) of heroin;
  - 67,380 lbs. (30,558 kg) of cocaine (crack and powder combined);
  - 2,191,459 lbs. (993,859 kg) of marijuana;
  - 21,752 lbs. (9,865 kg) of methamphetamine; and
  - 518 lbs. (235 kg) of ecstasy.

Byrne JAG is supported by a broad and dedicated coalition of groups and voices from across the criminal justice system. We come together on this letter recognizing the central role Byrne JAG plays in preventing victimization, supporting innovative law enforcement practices, supporting fair administration of and access to justice, serving and protecting victims, and leveraging other federal, state, local and private dollars to support the balanced functioning of the criminal justice system.

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 thank you for protecting the Byrne

JAG program in the FY13 bill and we respectfully request that you again protect Byrne JAG from further cuts in the FY14 appropriations cycle.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jack Cutrone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jack" and last name "Cutrone" clearly legible.

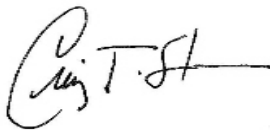
Jack Cutrone  
President  
National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Aaron Kennard". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Aaron" and last name "Kennard" clearly legible.


Aaron Kennard  
Executive Director  
National Sheriffs Association (NSA)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rich Stanek". The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first name "Rich" and last name "Stanek" clearly legible.

Sheriff Richard Stanek  
President  
Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCSA)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Craig T. Steckler". The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first name "Craig" and last name "Steckler" clearly legible.

Craig T. Steckler  
President  
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Darrel W Stephens". The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first name "Darrel" and last name "Stephens" clearly legible.

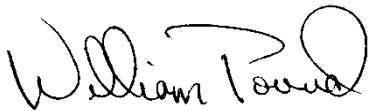
Darrel W Stephens  
Executive Director  
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)



Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM)



Matthew Chase  
Executive Director  
National Association of Counties (NACo)



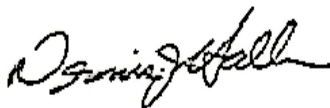
William T. Pound  
Executive Director  
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)



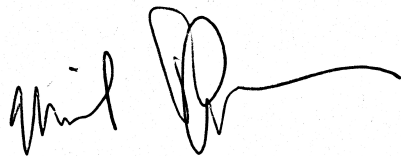
Bob Bushman  
President  
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition



Scott Burns  
Executive Director  
National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)



Dennis Hallion  
Executive Director  
National Troopers Coalition (NTC)



Michael Thompson  
Executive Director  
Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG)



Carl Wicklund  
Executive Director  
American Probation and Parole Association (APPA)



Mai Fernandez  
Executive Director  
National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)



Ann M. Harkins  
President and CEO  
National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)



Bill Johnson  
Executive Director  
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)



Steve Derene  
Executive Director  
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA)

*Bruce Ferrell*

Bruce Ferrell  
President  
National Alliance of Gang Investigators' Associations (NAGIA)

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a horizontal line.

David LaBahn  
President/CEO  
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA)

*Stew Rowles*

Stew Rowles  
Executive Director  
International Community Corrections Association (ICCA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'T' and 'M'.

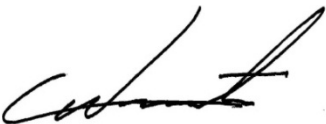
Tim Murray  
Executive Director  
Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI)

*Robert J. Kasabian*

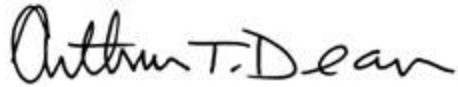
Robert J. Kasabian  
Executive Director  
American Jail Association (AJA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, with the name 'Ronald C. Sloan' clearly legible.

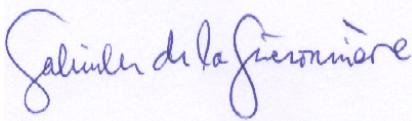
Ronald C. Sloan  
President  
Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'W' and 'H'.

West Huddleston  
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director  
National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)



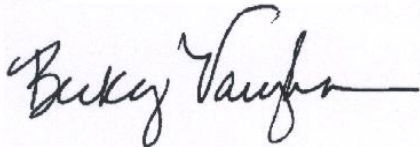
Arthur T. Dean  
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired  
Chairman and CEO  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)



Gabrielle de la Gueronniere  
Director of National Policy  
Legal Action Center (LAC)

*Michael Etko*

Michael Etko  
Senior Policy Advocate  
National TASC



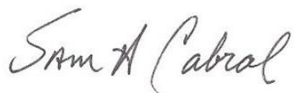
Becky D. Vaughn  
CEO  
State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)



Nancy Gannon Hornberger  
Executive Director  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)

*Maureen Monagle*

Maureen Monagle  
President  
Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA)



Sam A. Cabral  
International President  
International Union of Police Associations (IUPA)



Will Marling  
Executive Director  
National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)



James Bueermann  
President  
Police Foundation



Roberta Meyers  
Director  
National H.I.R.E. Network



Robert I. L. Morrison  
Executive Director  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)

***Scott Came***

Scott Came  
Executive Director  
SEARCH

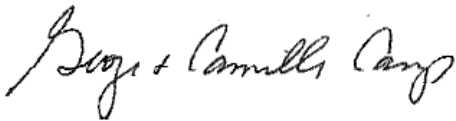




Dan Eddy  
Executive Director  
National Association of Crime Victims' Compensation Boards (NACVCB)



James A. Gondles, Jr.  
Executive Director  
American Correctional Association (ACA)



George and Camille Camp  
Co-Executive Directors  
Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA)



Teresa Huizar  
Executive Director  
National Children's Alliance



John P. Kingrey  
President  
National Association of Coordinators (NAPC)



Steve Ambrosini  
Executive Director  
IJIS Institute



Edward J. Loughran  
Executive Director  
Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA)



Stacie Rumenap  
President  
Stop Child Predators



Doug Robinson  
Executive Director  
National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO)

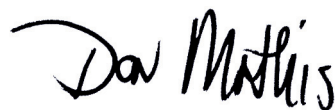
*Pat Beauchemin*

Pat Beauchemin  
Executive Director  
Treatment Communities of America



---

Scott Berkowitz  
President  
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)



Don Mathis  
President & CEO  
Community Action Partnership

*Darin Cunningham*

Darin Cunningham  
President  
National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA)

*Darla Bardine*

Darla Bardine  
Policy Director  
The National Network for Youth (NN4Y)

*Richard E. Steinberg*

Richard E. Steinberg  
President and CEO  
WestCare Foundation

cc: Senator Thad Cochran, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and  
Related Agencies  
Representative Hal Rogers, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related  
Agencies