

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman, Subcommittee on CJS
U.S. House of Representatives
H-301 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on CJS
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Fattah,

Thank you for your ongoing and diligent efforts to appropriately rebalance limited resources in order to support our nation's highest priorities. As you begin to craft the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriation bill for Fiscal Year 2016, we respectfully urge you to include sufficient funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs, in particular the COPS Hiring program. These programs are critical to ensuring that state and local law enforcement have the tools, personnel and resources necessary to protect and serve their communities, including in efforts to prevent further gun violence.

The Byrne JAG and COPS programs are the cornerstone of our federal justice assistance programs. Since their inception, the Byrne JAG and COPS programs have enabled law enforcement agencies to form vital partnerships among communities and law enforcement officers, combat criminal activities, and develop and implement problem-solving and crime prevention programs nationwide.

The strength of the Byrne JAG program is in its impact across the criminal justice system, from law enforcement to prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, program planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives. The COPS Office and its corresponding programs provide invaluable resources and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies, keeping our communities safe. Sufficient funding is critical to ensuring that law enforcement has the resources necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the public, because in recent years law enforcement agencies have experience shrinking budgets and difficult decisions concerning operational readiness and number of officers on patrol.

We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction, and we thank you for your work. Support for the Byrne JAG and COPS Hiring programs is imperative to the safety of our communities. These programs supplement the manpower and incentivize the collaboration across agencies necessary to build upon successful crime reduction efforts over the past 20 years. For these reasons, we respectfully request that

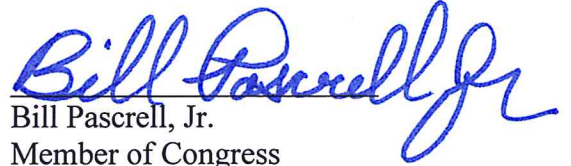
you include strong funding for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs, especially the COPS Hiring program, in the FY2016 CJS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



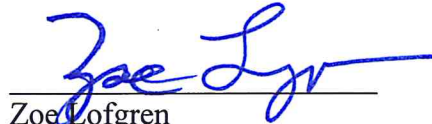
Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



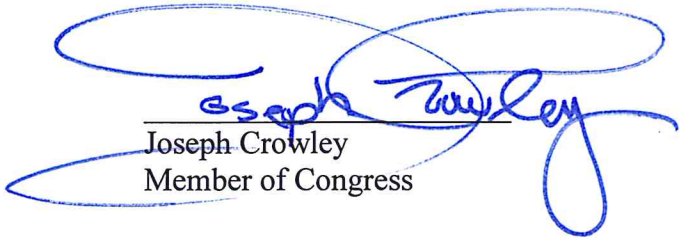
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



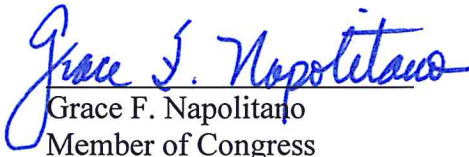
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



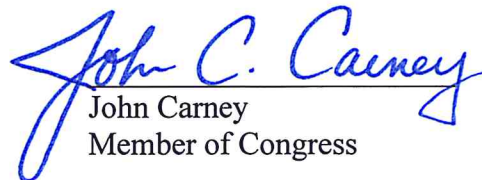
Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



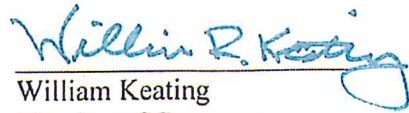
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



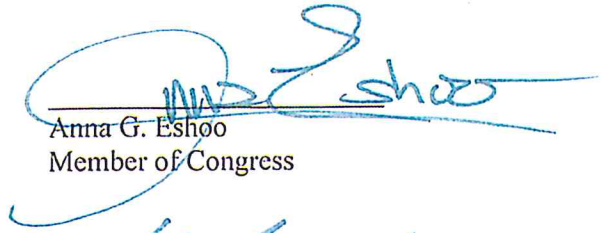
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress




John Carney
Member of Congress



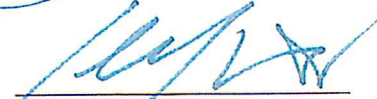
William Keating
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



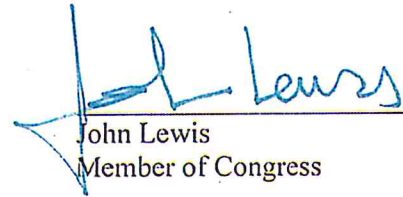
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
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John Lewis
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



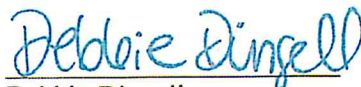
David Scott
Member of Congress



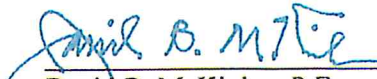
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress




Mark Takai
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Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress


Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


George Holding
Member of Congress

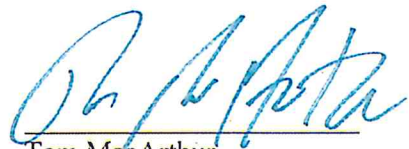

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress


Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

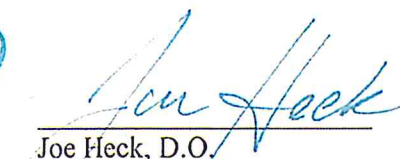

Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello
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Tom MacArthur
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Norma Torres
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Joe Heck, D.O.
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Mark Walker
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



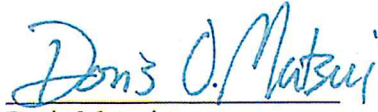
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



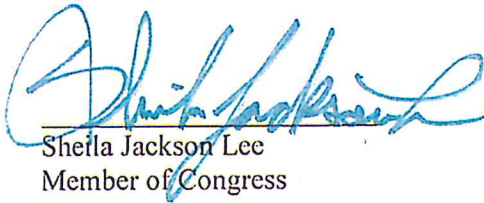
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



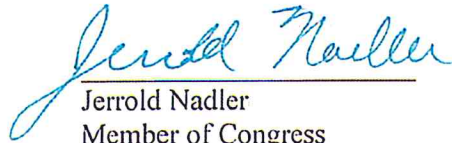
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



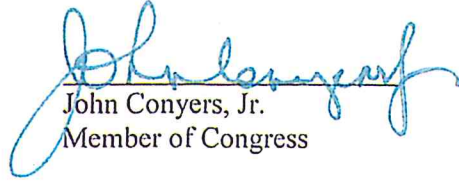
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



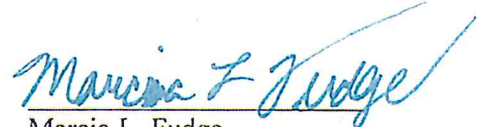
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



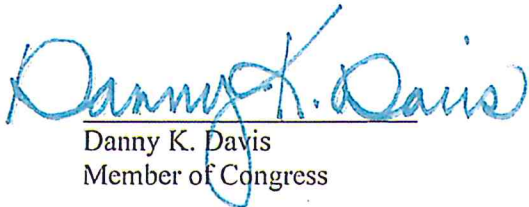
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



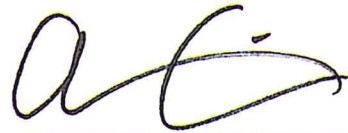
Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



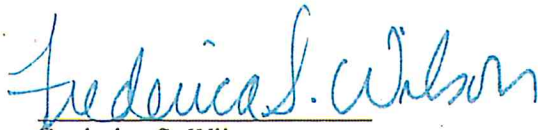
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



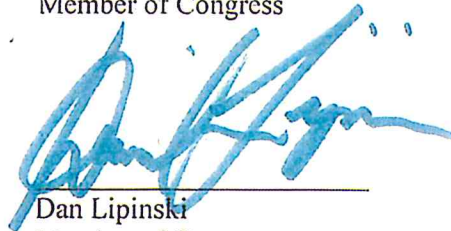
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



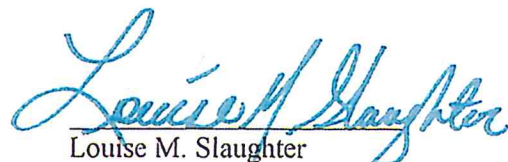
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

John Delaney
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Richard Nugent
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Loretta Sánchez
Member of Congress

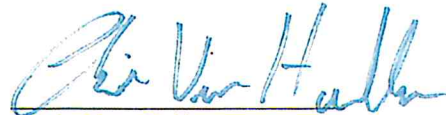
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



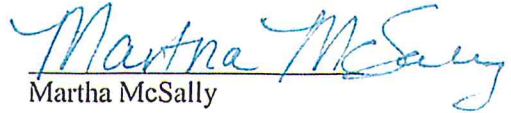
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



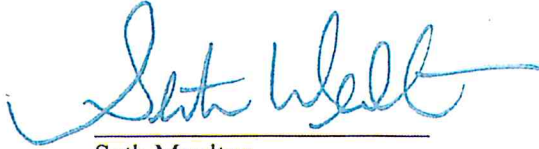
Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



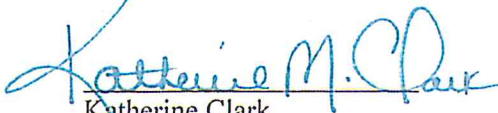
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo

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Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Peter Welch

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Steve King

Steve King
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Don Young

Don Young
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty

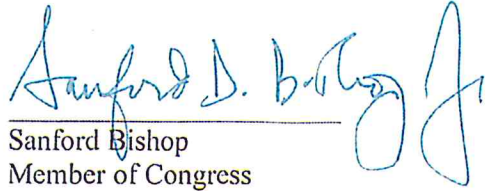
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



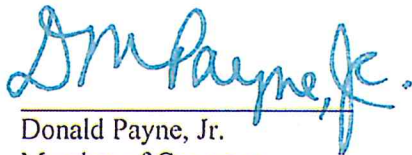
Filemon Vela, Jr.
Member of Congress



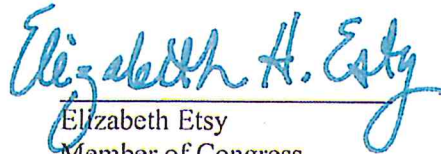
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



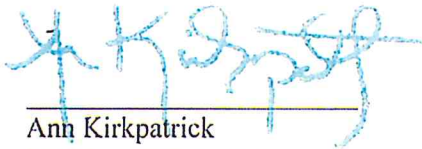
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Donald Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



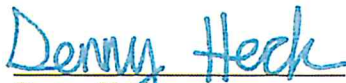
Elizabeth Etsy
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



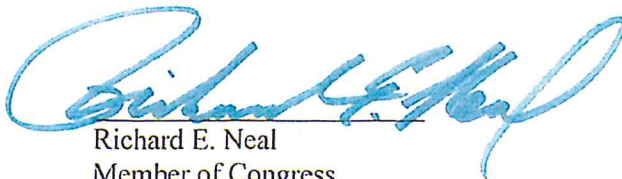
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



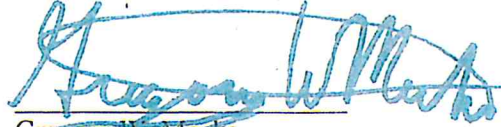
Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



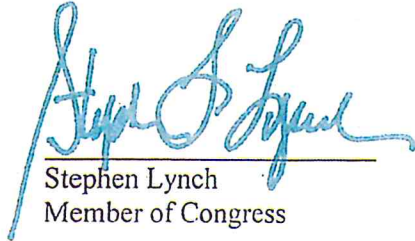
Pedro Pierluisi
Member of Congress



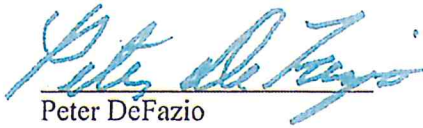
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



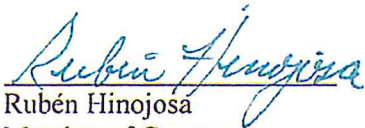
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



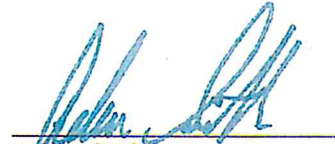
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



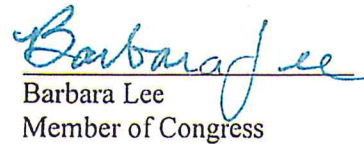
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



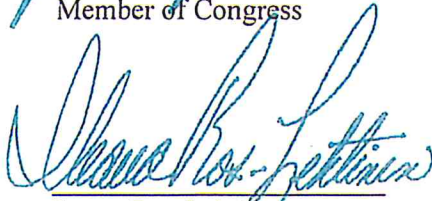
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



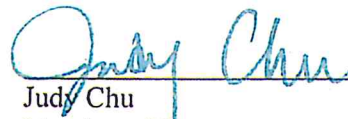
Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress

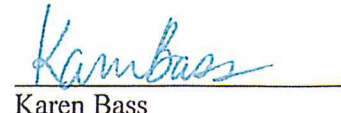


Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress

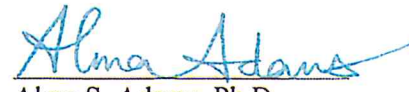



Rosa L. Delauro
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

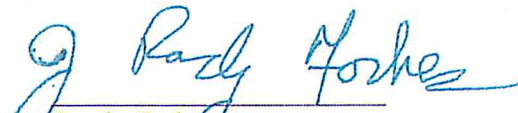

Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

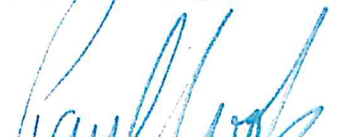

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress


Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

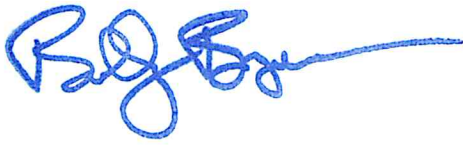

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress


Paul Cook
Member of Congress


French Hill
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress