

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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July 14, 2026

The Honorable Todd W. Blanche
Acting Attorney General
Department of Justice
905 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche:

We write in opposition to the Department of Justice's (DOJ) reported plans to consolidate the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) into a centralized grantmaking structure.¹ We call on the Department to immediately cease this illegal plan which would reduce the effectiveness of federal public safety efforts and is opposed by stakeholders including law enforcement, violence prevention organizations, and those who support victims of domestic violence. This consolidation threatens to further undermine vital grant programs that have already been hampered by unjustified award terminations, uncertainty, and delays.

OJP, OVW, and the COPS Office each play a distinct and crucial role in upholding and protecting public safety. Established in 1984, OJP has a broad mission to support effective public safety including programs that reduce crime, assist victims, promote just prosecutions, and improve corrections and reentry.² OJP supports the work of community organizations, nonprofits, government entities, and law enforcement agencies.³ The COPS Office was created in 1994 to specifically assist "state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies through information, technical assistance, training and grant resources."⁴ The OVW was established by Congress in 2004 as a "separate and distinct" office to reduce and address crimes against women.⁵

¹ *FY 2027 Performance Budget Congressional Submission: Office of Justice Programs*, U.S. DEP'T. OF JUSTICE (2026), <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/media/1434626/dl>; *DOJ Law Enforcement Meeting: COPS Consolidation*, NATL. ASSOC. OF POLICE ORGS. (June 5, 2026), <https://www.napo.org/news/doj-law-enforcement-meeting-cops-consolidation-napo-on-the-hill-crypto-legislation-model-cities-initiative>.

² *Organization, Mission and Functions Manual: Office of Justice Programs*, U.S. DEP'T. OF JUSTICE, <https://www.justice.gov/doj/office-justice-programs> (last visited July 9, 2026)

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ The Violence Against Women Office Act, Pub. L. No. 107-273, tit. iv. (2002) (codified as amended at 34 U.S.C. §§ 10442-10445).

The Department’s proposed consolidation of these offices violates multiple laws and statements of congressional intent. In addition to establishing OVW as a “separate and distinct” office,⁶ Congress reiterated the importance of OVW’s independence when it passed the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 which added that OVW shall “not [be] subsumed by any other office.”⁷ The consolidation plan also disregards Congress’s express guidance set forth in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 appropriations law directing the Department to maintain OVW and the COPS Office as distinct organizational grantmaking entities.⁸ More recently, the House Committee on Appropriations approved language for FY 2027 directing the Department to maintain the three grantmaking offices—OVW, OJP, and the COPS Office—as separate and distinct organizational grantmaking entities and requiring a report on the steps taken to preserve their independence.⁹ Proceeding with this plan in spite of these directives would violate the executive branch’s constitutional duty to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.”¹⁰

The consolidation plan is not only illegal and against the express will of Congress, but it is also in opposition to the will of stakeholders, including those who represent law enforcement officers. For instance, a letter from the National Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Chiefs of Police to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees called on Congress to “ensure that the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) remains a separate and distinct grantmaking entity within the U.S. Department of Justice.”¹¹ The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) also voiced “strong concerns” that consolidation would “have a negative impact on the COPS Office ... the only office within the Department solely dedicated to the needs of state and local law enforcement.”¹²

We are concerned that consolidation would compound delays in the grantmaking process. The Committee on Appropriations expressed concern regarding delays in the release of funding opportunities, pointing out that “additional layers of review have contributed to delays in the obligation of funds.”¹³ Likewise, the House Committee on the Judiciary has repeatedly heard from grantees across the country—including law enforcement organizations, domestic violence prevention advocates, and community violence prevention organizations—who are grappling

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Pub. L. No. 117-103, div. W, tit. IX, § 901(a) (2022) ((codified as amended at 34 U.S.C. §§ 10442-10445).

⁸ Joint Explanatory Statement Accompanying the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, Public Law 119-74, Division A, “Distinct Grantmaking Components,” *available at* <https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20260105/Division%20A%20Commerce%20Justice%20Science.pdf>.

⁹ H. Comm. on Appropriations, FY 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, Full Committee Markup, adopted Manager’s Amendment, striking and replacing “Distinct Grantmaking Components,” <https://www.congress.gov/119/meeting/house/119282/documents/HMKP-119-AP00-20260513-SD003.pdf>.

¹⁰ U.S. CONST. art. II, § 3.

¹¹ Letter from National Fraternal Order of Police and International Association of Chiefs of Police to H. and S. Appropriations Committees (June 23, 2026), https://fop.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/FOP-IACP_Funding-Request-CRI-TAC.pdf.

¹² *DOJ Law Enforcement Meeting: COPS Consolidation*, NATL. ASSOC. OF POLICE ORGS. (June 5, 2026) <https://www.napo.org/news/doj-law-enforcement-meeting-cops-consolidation-napo-on-the-hill-crypto-legislation-model-cities-initiative>.

¹³ See *id.* (striking and replacing “Notice of Funding Opportunities”).

with delays in funding opportunities and uncertainty surrounding the administration of federal grant programs. Despite Congress's continued direction to improve the timeliness of funding opportunities, many critical FY26 Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) remain unreleased, leaving community-based organizations, local governments, victim service providers, and public safety partners unable to effectively plan for the future. For organizations operating on limited budgets, prolonged uncertainty has resulted in staffing challenges and service disruptions which in turn have limited the effectiveness of these vital programs and the value delivered to taxpayers and their communities. We are concerned that the proposed consolidation would create bottlenecks and additional layers in an already lagging review process.

The failure to timely release FY26 NOFOs and grant awards comes on the heels of the abrupt Department of Government Efficiency-initiated termination of more than 300 OJP grants awarded to 221 organizations across 37 states in April 2025.¹⁴ Despite stating that terminated grants "were meticulously reviewed to ensure that services to victims would not be impacted," some awardees were notified that their awards were terminated and then, just 24 hours later, received emails stating that the terminations were rescinded and that their grants were still active.¹⁵ The chaotic nature of the terminations called into question the deliberative processes and diligence used by the Department in terminating critical public safety grants and leads us to question whether the decision to consolidate OVW, OJP, and the COPS Office was similarly made without a clear deliberative process. If executed, this consolidation could further reduce the staffing expertise of each of these offices and the time and attention paid to their grantmaking, raising the likelihood of future haphazard decisions that will harm law enforcement, crime victims, and crime prevention efforts overall.

Considering these past failures and that these offices are committed to serving the public in partnership with grantees, it is critical that existing and prospective grantees along with stakeholders that aid in grant implementation are meaningfully engaged in any plan to consolidate these offices. While we are aware of reports that the Department has notified select stakeholders of its plans, we are concerned that other stakeholders have not been contacted by DOJ. Of the organizations that have been briefed, many still oppose this plan,¹⁶ yet there is no indication that DOJ has suspended the consolidation effort in light of their objections.

Given Congress's clear interest in these programs and its previous direction to maintain the independence of these offices, we request clarification about the proposal to consolidate

¹⁴ Peter Eisler & Sara N. Lynch, *US Cancels Hundreds of Grants for Police, Crime Victims, Justice Dept Documents Show*, REUTERS (Apr. 23, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-justice-department-cancels-hundreds-grants-police-crime-victims-2025-04-23/>; Correspondence from U.S. Dep't of Justice, Regarding Termination of Award (Apr. 22, 2025) (citing 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4)) (on file with Committee); Amy Solomon, *DOJ Funding Cuts: More Than 550 Organizations Impacted, New Analysis Finds*, COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE (May 2025), <https://counciloncj.org/doj-funding-cuts-more-than-550-organizations-impacted-new-analysis-finds/>.

¹⁵ Ken Dilanian & Laura Strickler, *Justice Department Cutting Grants That Help Crime Victims*, NBC NEWS (Apr. 24, 2025), www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/justice-department-cutting-grants-help-crime-victims-rna202785.

¹⁶ See, e.g., *DOJ Law Enforcement Meeting: COPS Consolidation*, NATL. ASSOC. OF POLICE ORGS. (June 5, 2026) <https://www.napo.org/news/doj-law-enforcement-meeting-cops-consolidation-napo-on-the-hill-crypto-legislation-model-cities-initiative>.

OVW, OJP, and the COPS Office and how this consolidation will affect the Department's ability to effectively offer and provide grants. We request responses to the following requests for information no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026:

1. What is the justification for consolidating OJP, OVW, and the COPS Office, particularly given the statutory requirement that OVW must be maintained as a "separate and distinct office" and Congress's clear opposition expressed in both the FY26 and FY27 appropriations legislation?
2. What specific inefficiencies has the Department identified that would be addressed by consolidating these offices? How would consolidation specifically improve these inefficiencies?
3. What efforts will be made to ensure all stakeholders are meaningfully engaged in any decision to consolidate OJP, OVW, and the COPS Office?
 - a. Who will be included in the stakeholder engagement process?
 - b. When will meaningful stakeholder engagement occur?
 - c. How will DOJ ensure that it provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide feedback on any plan to consolidate?
 - d. How will DOJ incorporate stakeholder views into any plan to consolidate these offices?
 - e. If DOJ proceeds with the consolidation plan, how will it involve grantees in meaningful and ongoing discussions to receive feedback on the implementation of this plan?
4. Have any stakeholders offered support for the plans the Department has shared? If so, please provide any statements or letters of support.
5. How many stakeholders have offered opposition or expressed concerns about the plans the Department has shared?
6. How does DOJ plan to consolidate OJP, OVW, and the COPS Office?
 - a. How does the Department intend to carry out the distinct missions of OJP, OVW, and the COPS Office if they are consolidated into one office?
 - b. How will the Department ensure that each of the unique group of stakeholders currently served by the separate offices will be adequately resourced in one office?

- c. Please provide information on the number of individual grants that were awarded per year for the past five years, by grantmaking component, and an estimate of the number of individual grants that will be awarded using FY26 and FY27 funding. Please include estimates of the number of grants that will be awarded under the BIDEN Fund and other grants authorized and appropriated in the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*.
 - d. Please provide details on the staffing levels across each of the grantmaking components—OVW, the COPS Office, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Institute of Justice—comparing number of staff per year for the past five years and by function (e.g., program manager, accounting, etc.).
 - e. Please explain what staffing changes will be made to accommodate the current and expected future workload, including the hiring or re-hiring of program and grant staff? How will the Department adjust staffing across components and functions to ensure the efficient and effective administration of grants under a consolidated office?
 - f. What staffing changes will be made? How will the Department ensure that the consolidated office retains the expertise needed to address and uphold the distinct missions of OJP, OVW, and the COPS Office?
 - g. Does the Department intend to eliminate any of the existing grant programs currently administered by OJP, OVW, and the COPS Office as part of the consolidation effort?
 - h. Please provide any documents, including organizational charts, memoranda, handouts, reports, presentation slides, and other materials regarding DOJ's consolidation plans.
- 7. How will the Department ensure that consolidation adheres to Congress's mandate that OVW "shall be a separate and distinct office within the Department of Justice, not subsumed by any other office" and maintains "final authority over all grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts awarded by the Office?"¹⁷
 - 8. At the time of writing, the Department has not yet awarded the FY25 funds provided by Congress for many of the grant programs currently administered by OJP and OVW. Is the delay a result of the consolidation efforts? What is the Department's timeline for distributing these funds?
 - 9. Congress directed the Department to publish all FY26 NOFOs within 90 days of enactment of H.R. 6938, Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water

¹⁷ 34 U.S.C. § 10442(b).

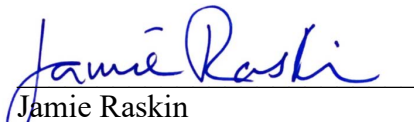
Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026,¹⁸ yet numerous funding opportunities have yet to be announced more than 90 days past enactment. Please identify the specific stages of the approval process where delays have occurred, the officials responsible for those reviews, and the primary factors contributing to the Department's failure to meet the congressional timeline.

10. What steps is the Department taking to expedite the release of pending FY26 NOFOs and the issuance of grant awards? Please describe any actions taken to increase grant review capacity, streamline internal review and approval processes, reduce administrative bottlenecks, or provide flexibility to current grantees facing potential funding gaps.
11. Has the Department established any formal mechanism or data-collection process to track the number of existing grantees that have experienced a lapse in funding due to delays in grant awards or disbursement? If so, how many and which entities have reported service disruptions or staff layoffs to OJP, OVW, or the COPS Office as a result of these delays?
12. Please provide this Committee with a definitive timeline for the Department's expected release of all remaining FY26 funding opportunities, granting awards, and distribution of those grant awards.

In addition to written responses, we request an in-person briefing for Members and staff. Please contact Democratic Committee staff as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026, to arrange this briefing.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member


Lucy McBath
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime and Federal
Government Surveillance

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

The Honorable Andy Biggs, Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance

¹⁸ House Committee on Rules, *FY 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Joint Explanatory Statement*, p. 74.