

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906  
judiciary.house.gov

May 5, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

Why did the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) terminate hundreds of critical grants to local governments, community-based organizations, and law enforcement across the country? Despite decades of broad bipartisan backing for these programs and President Trump's promises to promote public safety, your staff abruptly and opaquely informed more than 300 grant awardees recently that their OJP grants were terminated because the awards "no longer effectuate ... the program goals or agency priorities."<sup>1</sup> This is baffling. These grants bolster local police in solving violent crimes. They help the survivors of brutal sexual abuse and sexual assault navigate the legal system and connect them to the resources they need, from mental health services to housing support. They provide addiction treatment and overdose assistance. They actually save American lives. We urge you to immediately reverse these terminations of essential programs.

The DOJ explained that it will focus on "law enforcement operations, combating violent crime, protecting American children, supporting American victims of trafficking and sexual assault, and promoting coordination of law enforcement efforts at all levels of government"—but the programs facing cuts serve these exact goals.<sup>2</sup> Gun violence is the leading cause of death for U.S. children, yet organizations like Cure Violence Global, which helps train community organizations across the country in violence prevention, lost millions of dollars.<sup>3</sup> Their program

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *New Report Highlights U.S. 2022 Gun-Related Deaths: Firearms Remain Leading Cause of Death for Children and Teens, and Disproportionately Affect People of Color*, JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF HEALTH (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/guns-remain-leading-cause-of-death-for-children-and-teens/>; Perry Stein, Tom Jackman & Jeremy Roebuck, *DOJ Cancels Grants for Gun-Violence and Addiction Prevention, Victim Advocacy*, WASH. POST (Apr. 23, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/22/justice-department-grants-canceled/>.

in Baltimore, Maryland, resulted in a 32% reduction in homicides in the first four years of the program across five sites.<sup>4</sup> You claim to be a “lifelong advocate for crimes against women,” yet a nonprofit that supports domestic violence survivors with disabilities, Activating Change, lost a stunning five federal grants, including one grant that paid for American Sign Language interpretation for domestic violence survivors.<sup>5</sup> Thanks to Activating Change, a deaf mother who was trying escape her abusive husband was able to file for divorce, gain custody of her children, seek therapy, and find a job and housing to start her new life.<sup>6</sup> None of this would have been possible without sign language interpreters provided by Activating Change. The National Organization for Victim Assistance lost its grant that supports a pilot program to train victim advocates to staff domestic violence shelters, hotlines and rape crisis centers, and specifically aims to solve staff turnover issues given the low pay and mental health toll of these jobs.<sup>7</sup> Significantly, these actions come shortly after the Department’s Office on Violence Against Women also removed grant funding opportunities that help victims of gender-based violence.<sup>8</sup>

Despite the Department’s claim that it is prioritizing law enforcement, these cuts directly harm law enforcement and limit their ability to combat violent crime. For example, the Police Executive Research Fund lost three grants, including one to reduce violent crime and promote community trust and another to prevent civil disturbances.<sup>9</sup> The National Policing Institute lost grants to help rural police departments combat violent crime. If the goal of the Administration is to keep America safe, abruptly cutting so much from the Bureau of Justice Assistance responsible for supporting our officers does not add up.<sup>10</sup> This not only hinders effective policing but also erodes public trust in the justice system. We fail to see how these grants conflict with this Administration’s stated priorities. Indeed, several of the recently terminated grants were actually awarded by the Trump Administration during President Trump’s first term.

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<sup>4</sup> Daniel W. Webster, ScD, MPH, Carla G. Tilchin, MSPH, Mitchell L. Doucette, PhD, MS, *Estimating the Effects of Safe Streets Baltimore on Gun Violence*, JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, CENTER FOR GUN VIOLENCE SOLUTIONS (Mar. 2023), available at <https://cvg.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2023-Safe-Streets-Baltimore.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Perry Stein, Tom Jackman & Jeremy Roebuck, *DOJ Cancels Grants for Gun-Violence and Addiction Prevention, Victim Advocacy*, WASH. POST (Apr. 23, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/22/justice-department-grants-canceled/>; Sarah N. Lynch & Peter Eisler, *Exclusive: US Justice Department Grant Cuts Valued at \$811 Million, People and Records Say*, REUTERS (Apr. 24, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-justice-dept-grant-cuts-valued-811-million-people-familiar-say-2025-04-24/>.

<sup>6</sup> Jack Brook & Claudia Lauer, *Layoffs, Closures and Gaps in Oversight Expected After Hundreds of DOJ Grants are Canceled*, WBOC (Apr. 29, 2025), [https://www.wboc.com/news/national/layoffs-closures-and-gaps-in-oversight-expected-after-hundreds-of-doj-grants-are-canceled/article\\_9188b339-deed-53e0-94f3-a984e83c1ed0.html](https://www.wboc.com/news/national/layoffs-closures-and-gaps-in-oversight-expected-after-hundreds-of-doj-grants-are-canceled/article_9188b339-deed-53e0-94f3-a984e83c1ed0.html).

<sup>7</sup> Julianne McShane, *Pam Bondi Cuts “Wasteful” Funds to Support Victims of Violent Crime*, MOTHER JONES (Apr. 24, 2025), <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/04/bondi-cuts-wasteful-funds-to-support-victims-of-violent-crime/>.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Dep’t of Just., Off. on Violence Against Women, *Fiscal Year 2025 Open Notices of Funding Opportunities*, Open Notices of Funding Opportunities, Funding (last visited Apr. 24, 2025), [www.justice.gov/ovw/open-notices-of-funding-opportunities](http://www.justice.gov/ovw/open-notices-of-funding-opportunities).

<sup>9</sup> Jack Brook & Claudia Lauer, *Layoffs, Closures and Gaps in Oversight Expected After Hundreds of DOJ Grants are Canceled*, WBOC (Apr. 29, 2025), [https://www.wboc.com/news/national/layoffs-closures-and-gaps-in-oversight-expected-after-hundreds-of-doj-grants-are-canceled/article\\_9188b339-deed-53e0-94f3-a984e83c1ed0.html](https://www.wboc.com/news/national/layoffs-closures-and-gaps-in-oversight-expected-after-hundreds-of-doj-grants-are-canceled/article_9188b339-deed-53e0-94f3-a984e83c1ed0.html).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

The Department's notifications to grantees not only fail to provide awardees with any explanation as to why their awards conflict with or do not serve the DOJ's priorities, but also do not provide any details as to how these termination decisions were made.<sup>11</sup> 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, then just 24 hours later, received emails stating that the terminations were rescinded and that their grant is still active.<sup>12</sup> Undoubtedly, the chaotic nature of the terminations calls into question the deliberative processes and diligence used by the Department in terminating critical public safety grants.

Together, these actions are cause for deep concern about how the Trump Administration's decisions will harm public safety and reduce the availability of victim services across the nation.

**Given the risk of harm this will cause to our communities, we urge the Department to immediately reinstate all OJP grants. Additionally, to better understand the Department's decision-making process and the Department's policies and priorities, we request that the Department respond to the following questions and requests for information no later than May 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

1. Please provide the method(s) and criteria used by the Department to determine whether to terminate a particular grant.
2. Were any of the grant terminations made at the direction of, or in consultation with, the so-called "Department of Government Efficiency"?
3. Please explain the criteria used to reinstate the grants that were initially terminated but reinstated soon after termination.
4. How does the Department plan to immediately support crime victims in the wake of terminating grants that support initiatives to provide support and counseling to crime victims, such as guidance on finding safe housing and referrals to victims' compensation programs?
5. How does the Department plan to immediately provide support to victims of hate crimes and law enforcement efforts to prevent hate crimes in the wake of terminating grants that funded these efforts?
6. Does the Department anticipate further cuts to OJP grants? If so, please detail the grants under consideration, the size of the expected cuts, and the method(s) and criteria used in evaluating these further cuts.

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<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

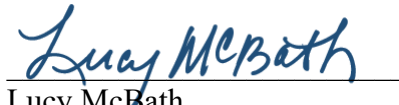
<sup>12</sup> Ken Dilanian & Laura Strickler, *Justice Department Cutting Grants that Help Crime Victims*, NBC News (Apr. 24, 2025), [www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/justice-department-cutting-grants-help-crime-victims-rcna202785](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/justice-department-cutting-grants-help-crime-victims-rcna202785).

7. Please provide an explanation of the Department's current priorities with respect to discretionary grant funding.

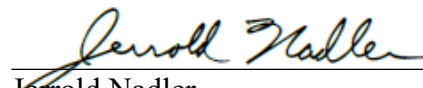
Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member

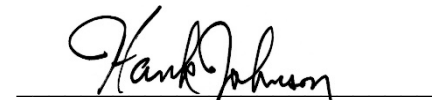
  
Lucy McBath  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Crime and  
Federal Government  
Surveillance

  
Jasmine Crockett  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight

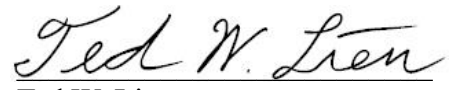
  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

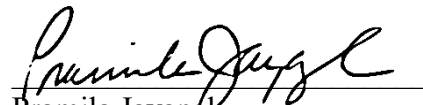
  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

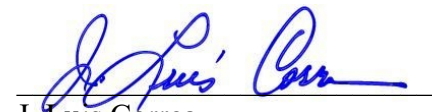
  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

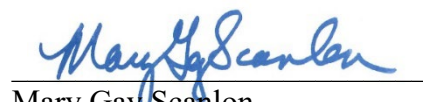
  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

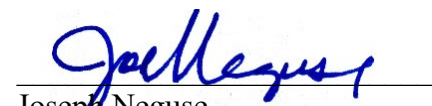
  
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

  
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

  
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

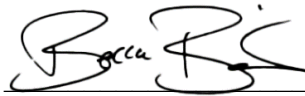
  
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

  
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

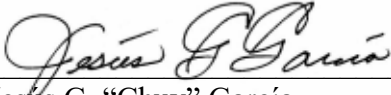
  
Joseph Neguse  
Member of Congress



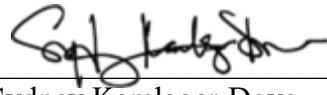
Deborah Ross  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



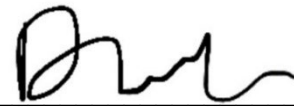
Jesus G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

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

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight