

July 9, 2012

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking member, House Judiciary Committee
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Conyers:

We, the undersigned groups, represent a broad cross-section of the criminal and juvenile justice systems in states and local communities across the nation. We write today to offer our strongest support for H.R. 6062, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2012. Under current law, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program is authorized through September 30, 2012. We consider it of the highest priority that the program is reauthorized before it is allowed to expire. Therefore, we urge quick approval of H.R. 6062 which will extend the program's authorization through Fiscal Year 2017.

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 Byrne JAG to address needs and fill gaps across the entire criminal justice system. Flexibility is a hallmark of the Byrne JAG program and one that is vitally important. Criminal justice is a system, the activities and priorities of one component impacting the activities and priorities of the other components. Only when the system is functioning in balance can the public safety truly be protected.

We strongly support the reauthorization of the Byrne JAG program before its expiration in recognition of the central role Byrne JAG plays in preventing victimization and fighting crime in neighborhoods across our country and in leveraging other federal, state, local and private dollars to support the balanced functioning of the criminal justice system. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jack Cutrone
President
National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)



Sheriff Larry Amerson
President
National Sheriffs Association (NSA)



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



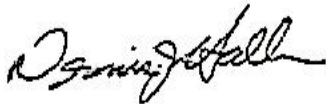
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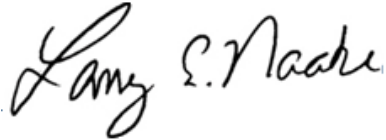
Dennis Hallion
Executive Director
National Troopers Coalition (NTC)



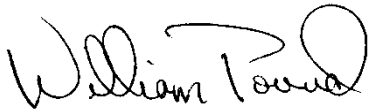
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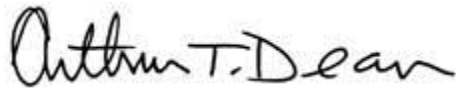
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Legal Action Center (LAC)



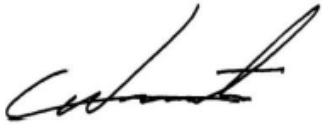
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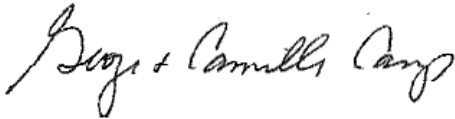
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