



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

June 9, 2025

Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515
202.225.2771

Re: Please continue to support homeland security programs that assist state and local public safety.

Dear Chairman Cole:

Tonight at 6:00 p.m., ET, the Committee will consider the subcommittee's markup of the FY2026 Homeland Security Bill.¹ On behalf of 3,081 sheriffs nationwide, the National Sheriffs' Association writes to voice its continued support for federal investment in homeland security programs that support state and local jurisdictions across the nation.

First, NSA supports the markup's appropriations for national security and border protection, including funds for 22,000 border patrol agents, border-security technology, non-intrusive inspection equipment, and Coast Guard cutters. In light of the cartels' exploitation of previous open-borders policies with terrible consequences in terms of human trafficking, human smuggling, and illicit drug trafficking, including the fentanyl crisis, border security should remain a priority. At the same time, NSA urges Congress to ensure that the nation and federal government are able to continue to meet their asylum obligations and to treat migrants, especially families and children, humanely.

Second, NSA urges Congress to continue to support and fund the Department of Homeland Security's grant programs, including the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), and Operation Stonegarden. These grants have enhanced border security, improved information sharing, and strengthened preparedness and response capabilities. In particular, UASI grants have provided vital support to regional fusion centers.

NSA joins other public-safety associations in expressing concern for a significant limitation that the Administration proposes to impose on these and other grants administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Administration proposes to require FEMA to "impose a cost matching requirement for [these grants] requiring that Federal funds not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of all projected funded through the grant."² Many state and local jurisdictions are already stretching limited

¹ See Rep. Tom Cole, Chair, House Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, 2026 (June 8, 2025), https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-appropriations.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/fy26-homeland-security-bill-summary.pdf?_gl=1%2A1vbhzzd%2A_ga%2AMzQ5MjcxNDQzLjE3NDk0MTcyOTc..

² Office of Management & Budget, Technical Supplement to the 2026 Budget, Appendix, at 436 ("Provided further, That . . . , the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall impose a cost matching requirement for each grant awarded under this paragraph requiring that Federal funds not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of all projects funded through the grant."), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/appendix_fy2026.pdf.

local budgets to support national homeland-security and other objectives. They cannot afford additional funding cuts or new matching or cost-sharing requirements in these grant programs.

Third, NSA supports the markup's appropriations for the Office of Intelligence & Analysis and the Office of Homeland Security Situational Awareness. I&A is a critical partner in the operations of many of the country's regional fusion centers. Fusion centers remain at the center of detecting threats of various types, such as threats from organized crime, threats to election security, and threats from domestic violence extremism.

NSA urges Congress to continue to pursue border security as a national priority, and NSA urges Congress to continue to fund grant and other programs, including UASI, SHSGP, and Operation Stonegarden, that provide critical support to state and local authorities as they pursue public-safety missions. As always, thank you for your continued commitment to public safety and the nation's sheriffs.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Kieran Donahue, Canyon County, ID
President, National Sheriffs' Association



Sheriff Jim Skinner, Collin County, TX
Third Vice President and Chair, Government Affairs Committee, National Sheriffs' Association

cc:

The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
The Honorable Lauren Underwood, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee

Jonathan Thompson, Executive Director & CEO, National Sheriffs' Association