

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2012

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

The Honorable R. Gil Kerlikowske
Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 Seventeenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Attorney General Holder and Director Kerlikowske:

As the Administration finalizes its budget request for Fiscal Year 2013, we write to express our strong support for three programs critical to state and local law enforcement in California and throughout our nation – the Department of Justice’s Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and COPS programs, as well as the Office of National Drug Control Policy’s High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. These programs are critical to California’s efforts to fight crime and combat drug trafficking, and we ask that the Administration fund these priority programs at the highest possible levels.

As you know, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program supports a range of activities that are of critical importance to state and local law enforcement entities, including crime prevention programs, drug enforcement, treatment interventions, law enforcement training, technology improvements, and crime victims’ assistance programs. In California, the Byrne/JAG program is a key source of funding for the State’s highly successful multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement and gang task forces, including methamphetamine interdiction and prevention programs.

Funding from the COPS program is also vital to the State of California, enabling state and local law enforcement organizations to hire and retain critically needed law enforcement officers at a time when state and local funding is scarce. Since its inception, the COPS program has funded 16,352 police and sheriff deputies involved in community policing activities in California, and 492 school resource officers to protect our state’s schoolchildren. In California, more than 570 local and state law enforcement agencies have directly benefited from COPS funding, including receiving more than \$300 million for crime fighting technology. This funding stream provides critically needed support to California’s public safety agencies.

The HIDTA Program significantly enhances our State’s drug control efforts through funding and support for equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking and its

harmful consequences. There are currently four designated HIDTAs in our State: Northern CA, Central CA, Los Angeles, and the Southwest Border; covering 24 of our 58 counties. These HIDTAs are particularly critical to our efforts to combat methamphetamine production, trafficking and use, which continue at crisis levels. In fact, California continues to lead the nation in total meth production, producing more of the drug than the next three largest meth-producing states combined. In 2009, there were 219 reported meth lab "incidents" in California, including the discovery of 99 labs and 81 dump sites.

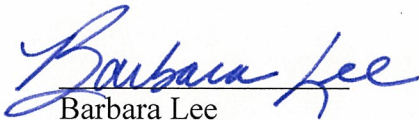
We understand that the current fiscal situation necessitates that very difficult budgetary decisions be made by the Administration and Congress. The safety of our residents, however, should always be the top priority of government. We, therefore, respectfully ask that you support funding the critical Byrne/JAG, COPS and HIDTA programs at the highest possible levels.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter.

Sincerely,



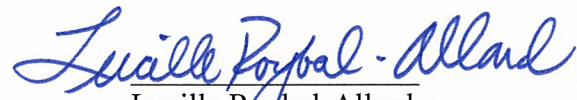
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



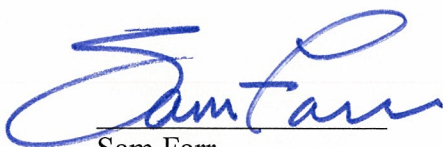
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



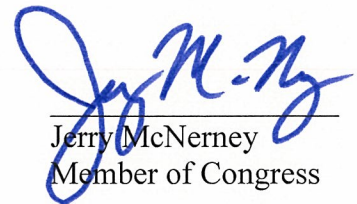
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



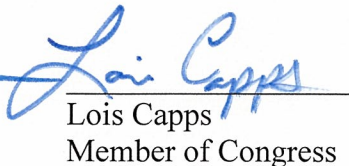
Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



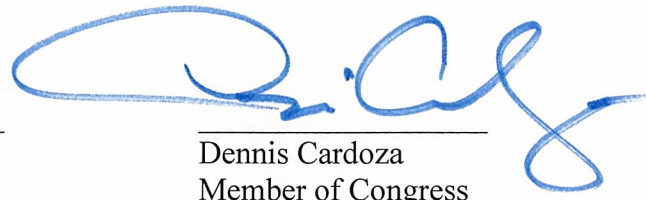
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



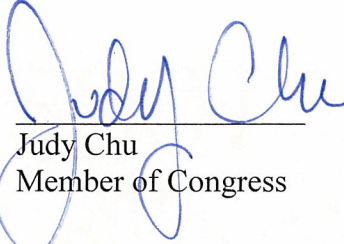
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress




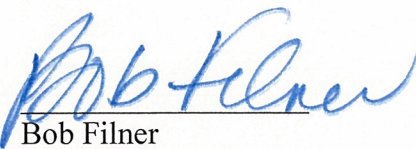
Lois Capps
Member of Congress

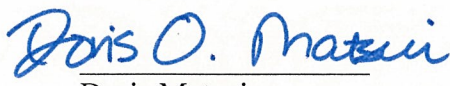


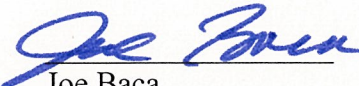
Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress

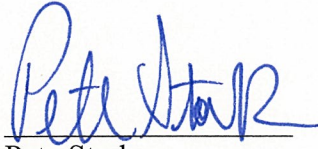

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

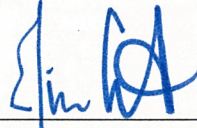

Howard Berman
Member of Congress

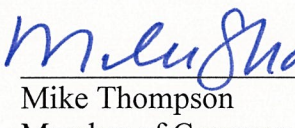

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

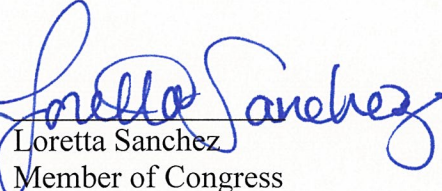

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress


Joe Baca
Member of Congress


Pete Stark
Member of Congress


Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress


Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

cc:
President Obama
OMB Director Jacob Lew
Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein