

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 21, 2011

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Hutchison:

Thank you for your leadership over the years in providing strong federal support for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program. Byrne JAG is considered the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program because it supports the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation, as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices nationwide. This year, given the significant financial constraints the federal government faces, as you prepare the Fiscal Year 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, we ask that you continue this support by providing funding for this critical program that is the leading source of federal justice assistance to state and local jurisdictions.

One of the keys to the Byrne JAG program's continuing success is its flexibility: federal dollars can be used in a wide variety of capacities at the local level in the way most appropriate to address local community needs across the criminal justice spectrum, and allows localities to balance resources and react to urgent challenges or changing circumstances.

Byrne JAG funds are used for law enforcement, prosecution and courts, prevention and education, drug treatment and enforcement, gang prevention, planning, evaluation, training, technology, and crime and victim witness programs. Guided by statewide strategic planning, Byrne JAG funds are able to test and measure innovative methods for reducing crime, preventing juvenile delinquency, and reducing recidivism, while at the same time saving taxpayer dollars.

Sixty percent of Byrne JAG funds are provided to the states to pass through for innovative programming in local communities. The remaining forty percent is provided to local communities directly. In Fiscal Year 2010, over 1,500 local jurisdictions across the country were awarded direct grants, and many more were awarded funds passed through by the state criminal justice planning agencies. These funds are helping to alleviate funding shortfalls and allowing continued emphasis on drug and gang violence, recidivism reduction, drug treatment and enforcement, corrections, prosecution and court programs, and prevention and education.

As you move forward in deliberations over this funding, we ask that you continue Congress' commitment to supporting local efforts to address crime and prevention. We appreciate your recognition of the importance of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, and thank you for continuing to provide funding to states and communities around the country.

Sincerely,



MARIA CANTWELL  
United States Senator



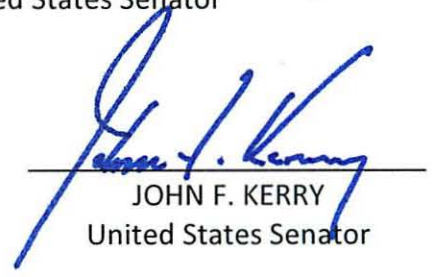
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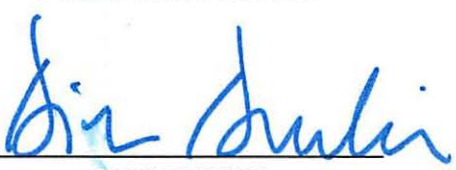
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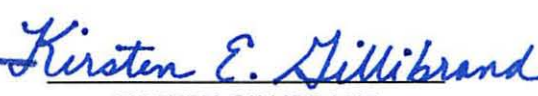
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United States Senator

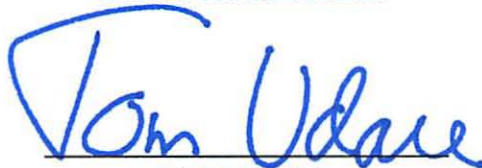


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