

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson, Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Honda, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda,

Thank you for your ongoing and diligent efforts to appropriately rebalance limited resources in order to support our nation's highest priorities. As you begin to craft the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2017, we respectfully urge you to include sufficient funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs, in particular the COPS Hiring program. These programs are critical to ensuring that state and local law enforcement have the tools, personnel, and resources necessary to protect and serve their communities.

The Byrne JAG and COPS programs are the cornerstone of our federal justice assistance programs. Since their inception, the Byrne JAG and COPS programs have enabled law enforcement agencies to form vital partnerships among communities and law enforcement officers, combat criminal activities, and develop and implement problem-solving and crime prevention programs nationwide.

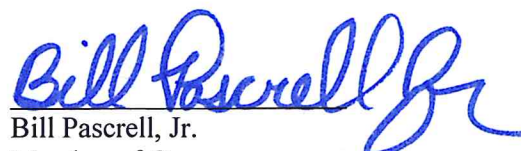
The strength of the Byrne JAG program is in its impact across the criminal justice system, from law enforcement to prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, program planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives. The COPS Office and its corresponding programs provide invaluable resources and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies, keeping our communities safe. Sufficient funding is critical to ensuring that law enforcement has the resources necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the public, because in recent years law enforcement agencies have experienced shrinking budgets and difficult decisions concerning operational readiness and the number of officers on patrol. With tensions between community and police at an all-time high, it is critical that we adequately fund these programs so police departments nationwide have the necessary resources to be able to engage with their communities to prevent crime, instead of just having to respond from call to call.

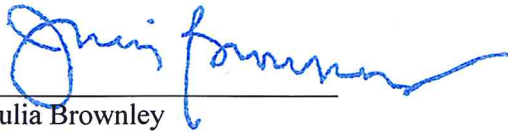
We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction, and we thank you for your work. Support for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs is imperative to the safety of our communities. These programs supplement the manpower and incentivize the collaboration across agencies necessary to build upon successful crime reduction efforts over the past 20 years. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you include strong funding for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs, especially the COPS Hiring program, in the FY2017 CJS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Dave Reichert
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



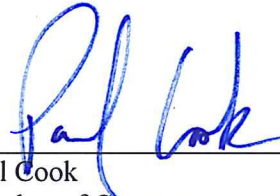
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



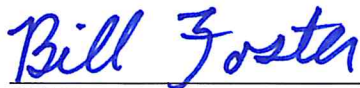
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



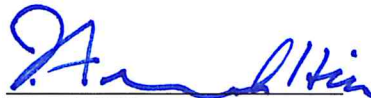
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



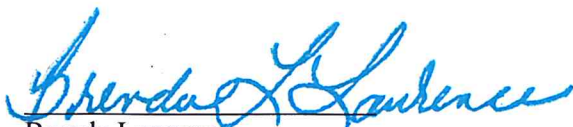
French Hill
Member of Congress



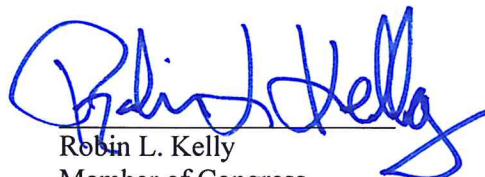
Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



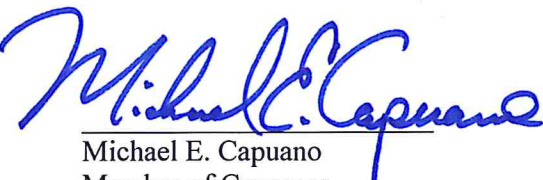
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



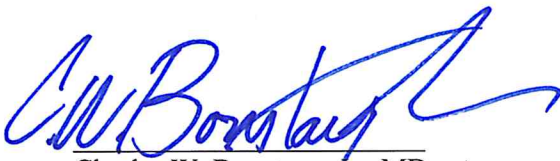
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Charles W. Boustany, Jr., MD
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



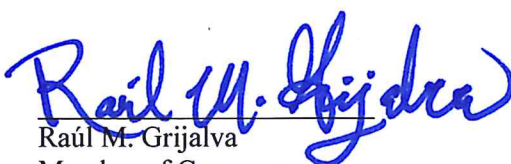
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



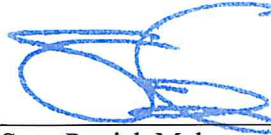
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress




Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



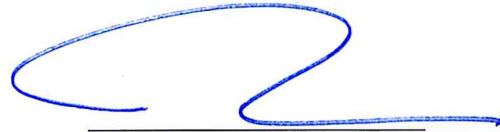
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



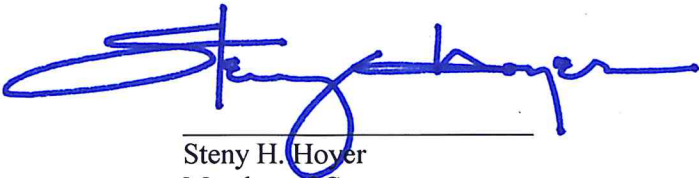
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



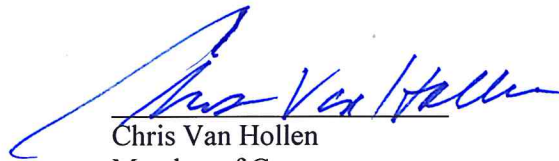
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



John Delaney
Member of Congress



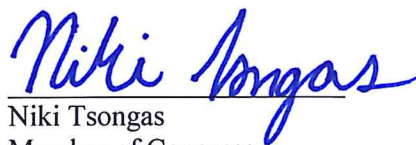
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



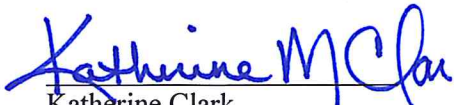
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

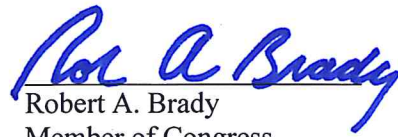


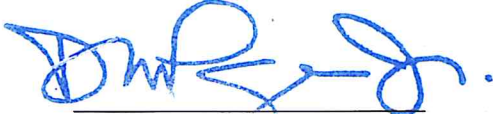
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

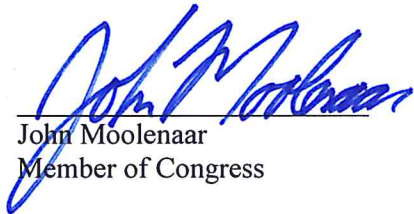

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

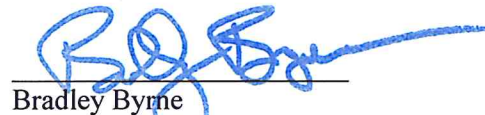

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress


James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

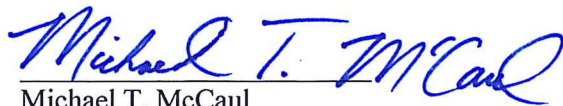

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

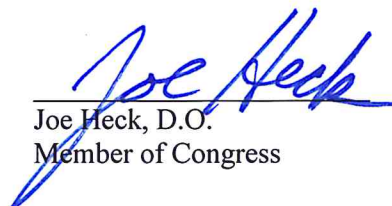

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

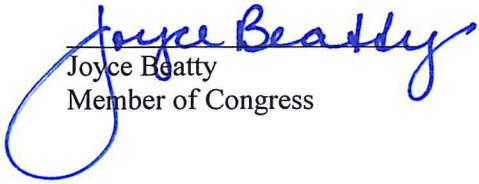

Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress


Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress


Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress


Joe Heck, D.O.
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



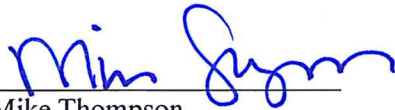
Dave Scott
Member of Congress



Barbara J. Comstock
Member of Congress



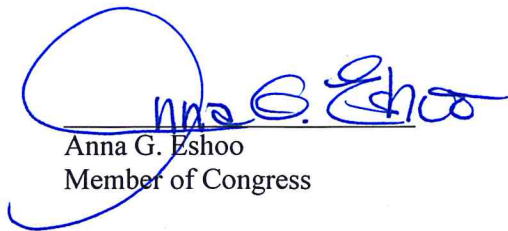
Curt Clawson
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



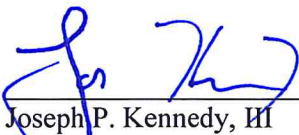
Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Mark Walker
Member of Congress



Crescent Hardy
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



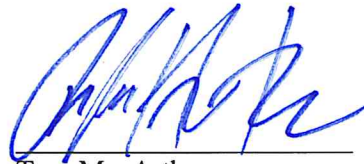
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



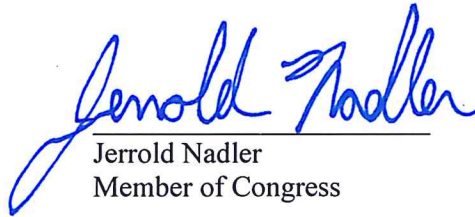
George Holding
Member of Congress



Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



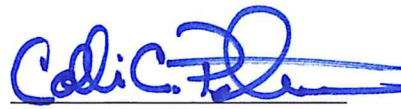
Danny Davis
Member of Congress




Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress



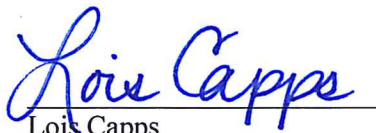
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



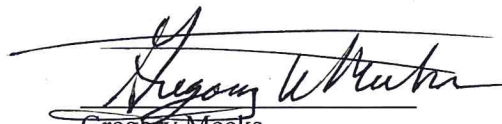
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



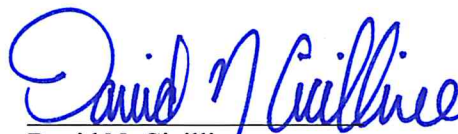
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



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



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



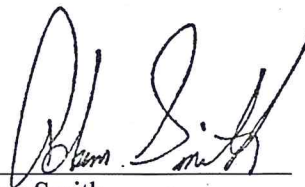
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



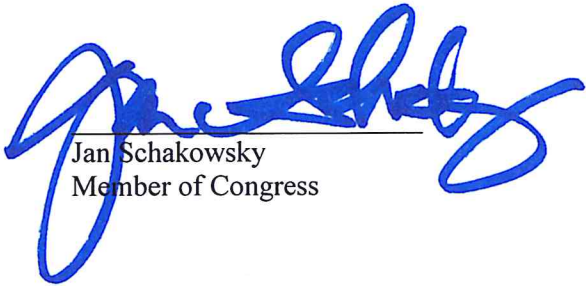
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



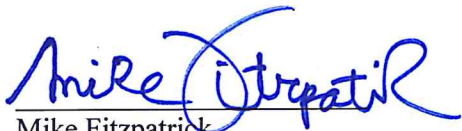
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



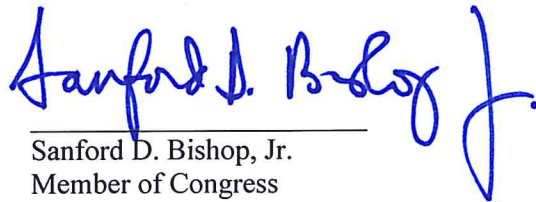
Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress



Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



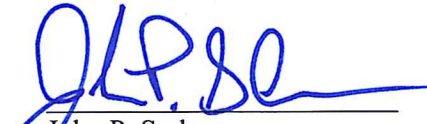
John Conyers
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Madeline Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress


John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

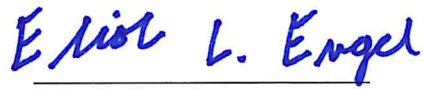

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress


Ted Deutch
Member of Congress


Andre Carson
Member of Congress


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

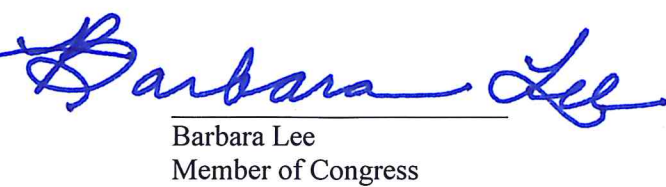

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

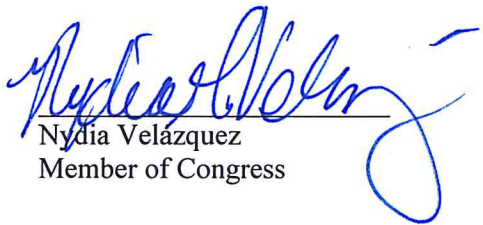

Gene Green
Member of Congress


Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

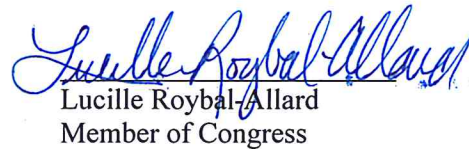

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

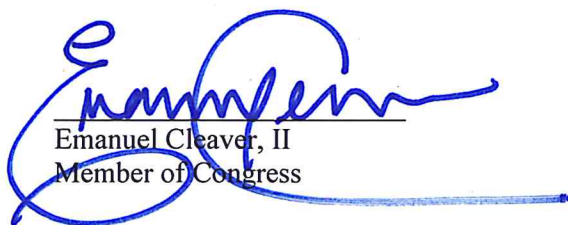

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

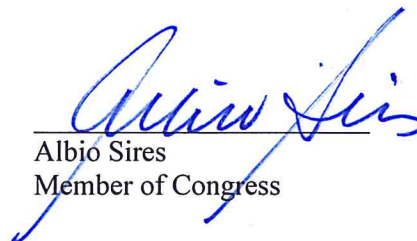

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

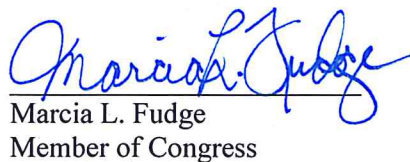

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress


Don Young, Congressman For All Alaska
Member of Congress


Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Martha McSally

Martha McSally
Member of Congress

Garret Graves

Garret Graves
Member of Congress

Jim Himes

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

John C. Carney, Jr.

John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



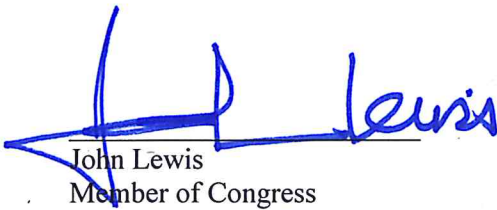
Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



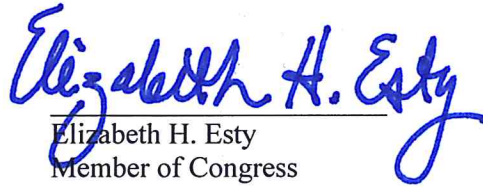
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



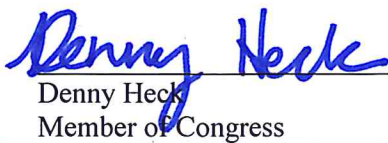
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



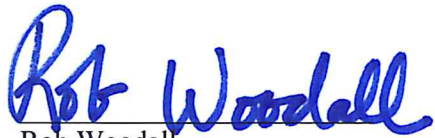
Mark Takai
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress