



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

March 18, 2008

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

I write to ask for your support in funding the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program at the level of \$600 million for fiscal year (FY) 2009. As a result of budget restrictions, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program suffered severe cuts in the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Funding for the Byrne-JAG program was cut by two-thirds, from \$520 million in FY 2007 to \$170.4 million in FY 2008.

The JAG program allows state and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system. The program helps state and local law enforcement agencies fund cold case units, school violence programs, hate crime programs, crime victim and witness programs, prosecution and court programs, the purchase of equipment, and the training of law enforcement officers. The JAG program also provides the only source of support for state, regional, and local agencies for drug enforcement and treatment programs.

As more and more states face difficult fiscal realities, I greatly appreciate and support your efforts and commitment to ensure that state and local criminal justice programs have adequate resources to address public safety challenges, and I urge you to restore the JAG program to \$600 million for FY 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Shays".

Christopher Shays
Member of Congress

Congressman Christopher Shays, Fourth District Connecticut
1126 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-0704
BRIDGEPORT: 579-5870 • NORWALK: 866-6469 • RIDGEFIELD: 438-5953 • SHELTON: 402-0426
STAMFORD: 357-8277 • WASHINGTON, DC: 202/225-5541 • Internet: www.house.gov/shays