



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Boehner, Chairman Obey, and Ranking Member Lewis:

As you consider which programs deserve additional resources in a prospective domestic supplemental or stimulus spending bill, we respectfully ask you to consider providing \$490 million for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. This funding will ensure that state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the country have the resources they need to combat violent crime and the spread of illegal drugs.

Due to budget restrictions, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program suffered severe cuts in the Fiscal Year 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act. To restore funding to this critical program, we supported the language included in the Senate Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 to fund Byrne-JAG at \$490 million. While funding for international efforts to combat illicit drugs and crime was included in the final bill, the measure regrettably excluded emergency resources for domestic law enforcement efforts through the Byrne-JAG program.

The Byrne-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. Funding is distributed on a formula basis and may be used to address the most pressing criminal justice problems in a given area. The Byrne-JAG 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. In addition, the program provides the only source of support for state, regional, and local agencies for drug enforcement and treatment programs.

The reduction in Byrne-JAG funding is a direct cut to state and local law enforcement in every state and can significantly affect the ability of law enforcement agencies to continue to provide these important services to victims, witnesses, schools, and the local communities. It is estimated that at least half of all Byrne-JAG funding goes directly to support the individuals who administer the critical services provided by Byrne-JAG, which suggests that thousands of criminal justice and social service jobs are at stake if Byrne-JAG funding is not restored.

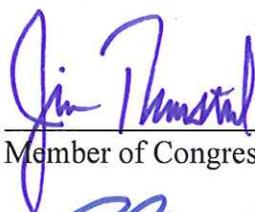
We, the undersigned Members of Congress, request that you take action and include urgently needed emergency funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program in any prospective domestic supplemental appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

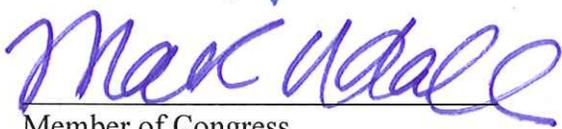
Sincerely,



Member of Congress



Member of Congress



Member of Congress



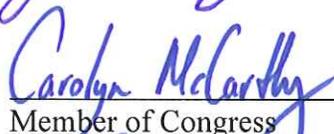
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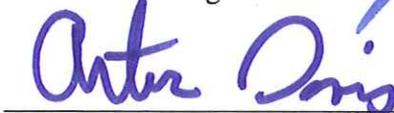
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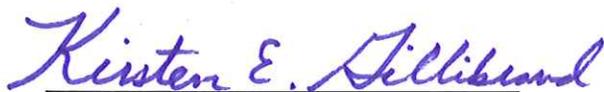
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Van Fan

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Rush Holt

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Scott Tipton

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Todd R. Platts

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Neil Abernethy

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John Boozman

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John T. Salazar

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Leonard L. Bowell

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Peter W. Upton

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Vic Snyder

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Kendrick Gillman

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Dean Heller

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Paul Lujan

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Ben Chandler

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Dave Loefer

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Joe Baca

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Jim Oberstar

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Chaka Fattah

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Jerry Moran

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Niki Kenyon

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Edouard

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Robert Wexler

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Barney Frank

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Gail Pritchard

Member of Congress

Frank Lautenberg

Member of Congress



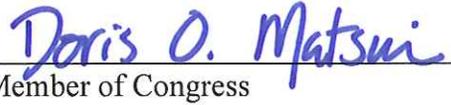
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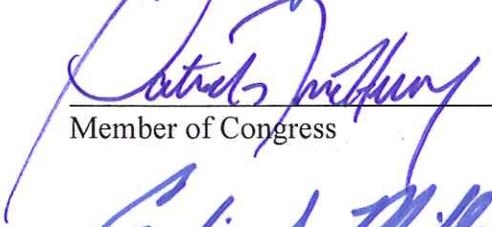
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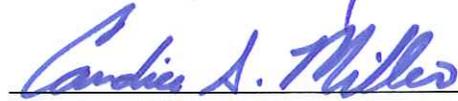
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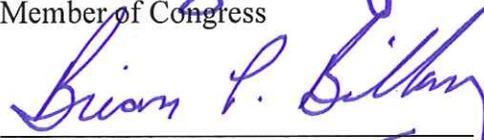
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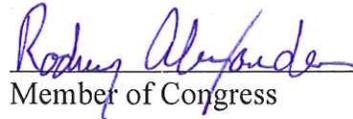
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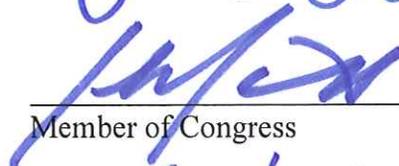
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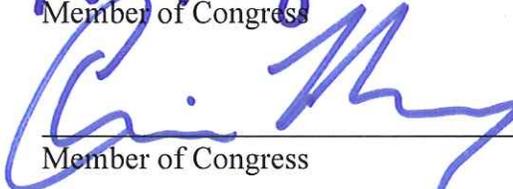

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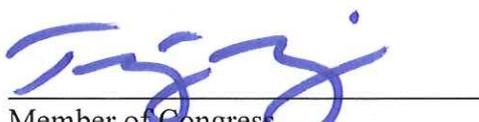

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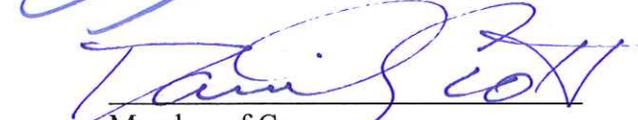

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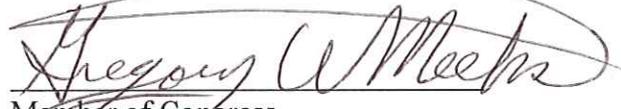

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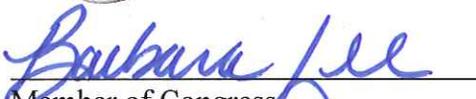

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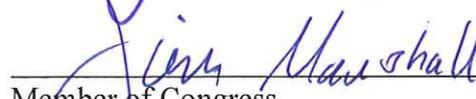

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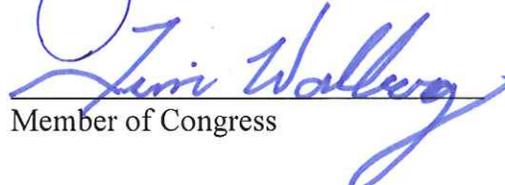

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Ellen Stauscher

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Loretta Sanchez

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Steve Kagen md

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Jim Holt

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Jeff Fortenberry

Member of Congress

Jim Matheson

Member of Congress

Russ Candran

Member of Congress

Devin Nunes

Member of Congress

Bob Byrd

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Jean Schriener

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Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

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Yvette Clarke

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