

April 12, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable José Serrano  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
1203 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen, Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

We, the undersigned national organizations representing a broad cross-section of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, thank you for your strong, consistent and thoughtful leadership on federal assistance for state, tribal and local evidence-based criminal justice programming. In particular, we applaud your steadfast support for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program and respectfully request that the Fiscal Year 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill begin to return funding to the program that has been lost in recent years.

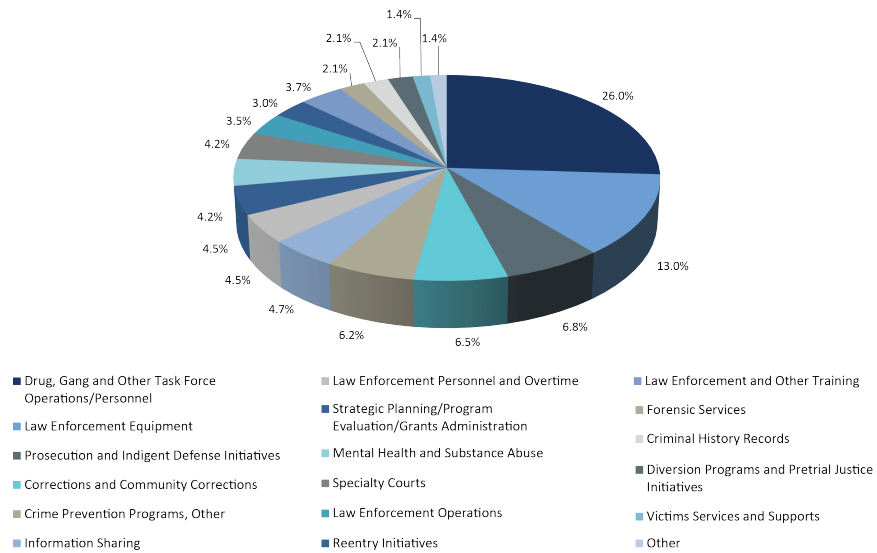
Byrne JAG is the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, supporting the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation, as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices nationwide. Because Byrne JAG is flexible, states and local communities are able to use funding to address needs and fill gaps across the entire criminal and juvenile justice systems – in juvenile delinquency prevention, law enforcement, courts and specialty courts, prosecution and indigent defense, corrections, victim assistance, mental health services, reentry programs, and other practices to improve transparency and fairness in the justice system.

This flexibility is the hallmark of the Byrne JAG program. This flexibility also means that states can respond quickly to emerging needs and crises. For example, many states were able to pivot swiftly to the prevention, treatment and recovery from opioid addiction. This flexibility also gives states and local governments a mechanism for working across systems to fill gaps. Byrne JAG is able to leverage other justice and public health funding to create programs that otherwise may be impossible within the constraints of other grant programs. This is helpful, even vital, when considering programs to divert the mentally ill from jail and to address the needs of the justice-involved with substance use disorders.

Byrne JAG grants also serve as a catalyst for collaboration within communities and across states, including the critical role multijurisdictional drug task forces play in targeting regional drug trafficking organizations. This cross-jurisdictional model is being replicated in states to tackle other cross-boundary crimes, such as human trafficking and cybercrime, while saving money and increasing efficiency in the process.

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) gathers a wealth of information about how states and local governments allocate Byrne JAG funding to meet system needs through periodic surveys of the State Administering Agencies (SAAs). From the most recent survey, we know that Byrne JAG dollars were invested broadly across all segments of the criminal justice system in FY16, as illustrated in the chart below.

## Breakdown of Byrne JAG State Formula Grant Funding 2016



As illustrated by the wide-range of signatures below, Byrne JAG is supported by a broad and dedicated coalition of national organizations from across the criminal and juvenile justice systems. We recognize the central role Byrne JAG plays in preventing victimization; supporting innovative law enforcement practices; supporting the fair administration of and access to justice; serving and protecting crime victims; and leveraging other federal, state, local and private dollars in the balanced functioning of the criminal justice system.

We recognize the competing pressures you face as you seek to prioritize funding for the many important programs in the CJS bill. Yet funding for Byrne JAG has been reduced by 35 percent since FY10, causing a serious contraction in the reach of Byrne JAG-funded programs across the states and territories and hindering our ability to prevent and deter a rise in violent crime, to confront the opioid epidemic, to reduce recidivism, and to improve outcomes for individuals with addiction and mental illness who come into contact with the justice system. For these reasons we respectfully request a return to the FY10 funding of \$520 million for Byrne JAG in the FY20 CJS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your leadership and your steadfast commitment to the Byrne JAG program.

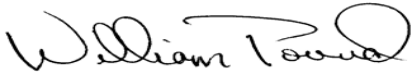
Sincerely,

Chris Kervick  
President  
National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)

Matt Chase  
Executive Director  
National Association of Counties (NACo)



Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM)



William T. Pound  
Executive Director  
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)



Sheriff Grady Judd  
President  
Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)



Art Acevedo  
President  
Major City Chiefs Association (MCAA)



Jonathan W. Blodgett  
President  
National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)



Bob Bushman  
President  
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)



Clarence Anthony  
CEO/ Executive Director  
National League of Cities (NLC)



Megan Quattlebaum  
Executive Director  
Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG)



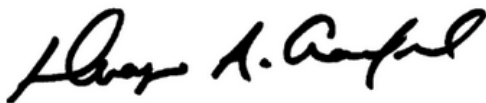
Jessica Nickel  
President and CEO  
Addiction Policy Forum



Ellen Donnarumma  
President  
International Community Corrections Association (ICCA)



Kevin Kempf  
Executive Director  
Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA)



Dwayne A. Crawford  
Executive Director  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)



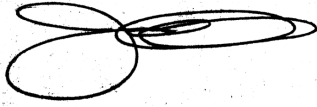
Bill Johnson  
Executive Director  
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)



Robert J. Kasabian  
Executive Director  
American Jail Association (AJA)



Mark Keel  
President  
Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)



Jim Burch  
President  
Police Foundation



Daisy Pagan  
Executive Director  
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA)



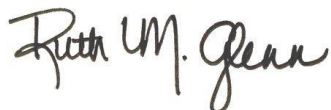
Dan Eddy  
Executive Director  
National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards (NACVCB)



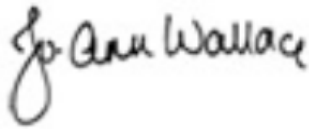
David LaBahn  
President/CEO  
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA)



Carson Fox  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)



Ruth Glenn  
Executive Director  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)



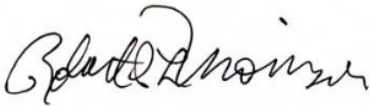
Jo-Ann Wallace  
President and CEO  
National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA)



Kathy Park  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD)



Chief Justice Richard Barajas (Ret.)  
Executive Director  
National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)



Robert L. Morrison  
Executive Director  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)



Pamela F. Rodriguez  
President and CEO  
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC), Illinois



Melvin H. Wilson  
Manager, Department of Social Justices and Human Rights  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)



Arthur C. Evans, Jr., Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Psychological Association (APA)



Matt Josephs  
Senior Vice President, Policy  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

*Veronica Cunningham*

Veronica Cunningham  
Executive Director  
American Probation and Parole Association (APPA)



Frankie Berger  
Director of Advocacy  
Treatment Advocacy Center

*Camille Cooper*

Camille Cooper  
Vice President of Public Policy  
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)



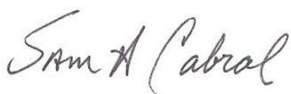
Mai Fernandez  
Executive Director  
National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)

*Ann M. Harkins*

Ann M. Harkins  
President and CEO  
National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

*Jeffrey Wennar*

Jeffrey Wennar  
Executive Director  
National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations (NAGIA)



Sam A. Cabral  
International President  
International Union of Police Associations (IUPA)

*Julia Fuller-Wilson*

Julia Fuller-Wilson  
President  
Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA)



David J. Roberts  
Executive Director  
SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

*Cherise Fanno Burdeen*

Cherise Fanno Burdeen  
Executive Director  
Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI)



Jim Sawyer  
Executive Director  
National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA)

*Mari Kay Bickett*


Mari Kay Bickett  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)



Sarah Bryer  
President and Executive Director  
National Juvenile Justice Network (NJNJ)



Marcy Mistrett  
Chief Executive Officer  
Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ)

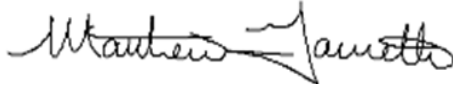


Naomi Smoot  
Executive Director  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)





Ashwini Jarra  
Executive Director  
IJIS Institute (IJIS)



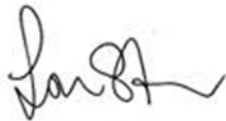
Matthew Gamette  
Chair  
Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)



Kim Ball  
Director and Research Professor  
Justice Programs Office, School of Public Affairs, American University (JPO at AU)



Stacie Rumenap  
President  
Stop Child Predators



Lovisa Stannow  
Executive Director  
Just Detention International (JDI)

Copies to:

Senator Richard Shelby, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
Representative Nita Lowey, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Representative Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies