

United States Senate

June 16, 2021

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

We write to thank you for your strong and consistent support of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program in the past. We write to ask that you fund the program at the highest possible level in the fiscal year 2022 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

As thoughtful stewards of taxpayer money, we must continually assess where federal support is necessary and appropriate. It is clear to us that the strong foundation of federal, state, and local partnerships built from the Byrne JAG program remains as vital as ever.

One of the highest responsibilities of government is to protect its citizens and ensure public safety. As such, Byrne JAG's strength in flexibility is paramount to fighting crime. States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to focus on the most pressing issues facing them. For instance, regional, national, and international gangs and drug trafficking organizations continue to drive the crime on our streets, embedding criminal activity deeper into our rural communities, and encouraging addiction and drug abuse across the country. Byrne JAG-funded programs facilitate cross-governmental intelligence and information sharing on terror and criminal threats, drug and human trafficking organizations, and sexual predators. This collaboration is essential to address today's criminal networks that cross city, state, and even international boundaries.

Furthermore, crime control and prevention can be truly successful only when the criminal justice system is in balance, with all of the parts functioning effectively. Byrne JAG's flexibility allows state and local governments to target their most pressing needs in law enforcement, prevention, pretrial services and treatment, courts, corrections, crime victims' services, prosecution and defense, and post-incarceration reentry services. Byrne JAG also leverages the massive investment that already occurs regularly in these programs at the state and local level.

Through Byrne JAG, the Department of Justice (DOJ) plays a crucial role in spurring innovation and testing cost-effective, evidence-based approaches to fighting crime and reducing recidivism. With over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., cross-jurisdictional learning and coordination cannot happen effectively without federal support.

Since 2005, the Byrne JAG program has successfully funded advances in policing, information technology, recidivism reduction programming, pretrial diversion to treatment, better coordination

between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems, and cross-jurisdictional coordination, each of which plays an integral role in decreasing the overall crime rate. States continue to rely on Byrne JAG's flexibility to apply the program tools that best address the needs of local units. Despite this progress, we must not become complacent when it comes to our citizens' safety and well-being. Federal support for Byrne JAG and state and local law enforcement is our first line of defense against criminals and the Byrne JAG program is vital in combating crimes of all types.

We know of your steadfast commitment to the Byrne JAG program in years past, and we ask for your continued support in the fiscal year 2022 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
United States Senator



CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO
United States Senator



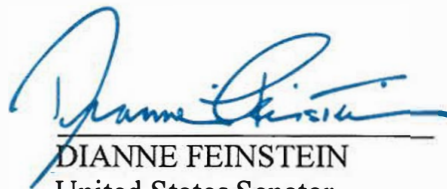
JAMES M. INHOFE
United States Senator



RICHARD J. DURBIN
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United States Senator



THOM TILLIS
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JOHN CORNYN
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TINA SMITH
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JACKY ROSEN
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MARK KELLY
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United States Senator



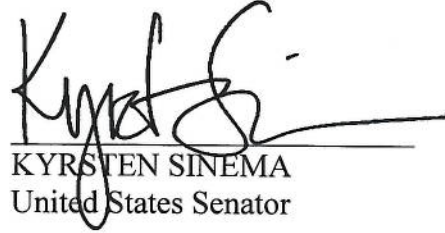
RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK
United States Senator



ALEX PADILLA
United States Senator



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



KYRSTEN SINEMA
United States Senator

Commerce, Justice and Science Group Letter Table
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ID	Sub	Request Agency or Account	Request Project Name	Request (\$000)
35886	CJS Group	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office on Justice Programs (OJP)]/[State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance]/[Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program] [Member Staff] - Evelyn Fortier Evelyn_Fortier@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-4324	Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program [Member's Request (text)] - Generous funding, while taking into account our budget constraints and economic circumstances	\$0

Appropriations Request Database

Request ID: 35886			
Agency or Account:	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office on Justice Programs (OJP)]/[State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance]/[Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program]	Project Name:	Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
Member/s:	Grassley, Chuck(R-IA); Baldwin, Tammy(D-WI); Bennet, Michael(D-CO); Blumenthal, Richard(D-CT); Brown, Sherrod(D-OH); Cardin, Benjamin(D-MD); Carper, Thomas(D-DE); Casey, Robert(D-PA); Coons, Christopher(D-DE); Cornyn, John(R-TX); Cortez Masto, Catherine(D-NV); Cramer, Kevin(R-ND); Duckworth, Tammy(D-IL); Durbin, Richard(D-IL); Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA); Gillibrand, Kirsten(D-NY); Hassan, Margaret Wood(D-NH); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); Hoeven, John(R-ND); Inhofe, James(R-OK); Kaine, Tim(D-VA); Kelly, Mark(D-AZ); King, Angus(I-ME); Klobuchar, Amy(D-MN); Luján, Ben Ray(D-NM); Manchin, Joe(D-WV); Markey, Edward(D-MA); Marshall, Roger(R-KS); Menendez, Robert(D-NJ); Murphy, Christopher(D-CT); Padilla, Alex(D-CA); Peters, Gary(D-MI); Reed, Jack(D-RI); Rosen, Jacky(D-NV); Rounds, Mike(R-SD); Sanders, Bernard(I-VT); Schatz, Brian(D-HI); Sinema, Kyrsten(D-AZ); Smith, Tina(D-MN); Stabenow, Debbie(D-MI); Tester, Jon(D-MT); Tillis, Thom(R-NC); Van Hollen, Chris(D-MD); Warner, Mark(D-VA); Warnock, Raphael(D-GA); Warren, Elizabeth(D-MA); Whitehouse, Sheldon(D-RI); Wyden, Ron(D-OR)	Subcommittee:	CJS
Request Type:	Group	Staff Contact:	Evelyn Fortier Evelyn_Fortier@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-4324
Justification:	This program was originally established under section 508 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. Congress later passed legislation to streamline the Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) and Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) programs into one program authorized at \$1.095 billion for fiscal years 2006 through 2012. Now known as the Byrne Justice Assistance, or JAG, program, it is important in combatting crime of all kinds. It allows state, local, and tribal governments to obtain the critical funding necessary to support a flexible range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections, drug treatment, technology improvements and other law enforcement functions. I ask that the JAG program be generously funded, while taking into account current budget constraints and economic circumstances, to enhance the level of service and law enforcement assistance provided to our citizens.		
Proposed Bill Language:		Proposed Report Language:	The Committee recognizes the importance of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program, which is important in combatting crime of all kinds. The Committee has recommended funding for this program to help ensure that State, local, and tribal governments can continue to access grants that support a flexible range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections, drug treatment, technology improvements and other law enforcement functions.
Member's Request:	\$0	Member's Request (text):	Generous funding, while taking into account our budget constraints and economic circumstances
Enacted Level:	\$484,000	President's Request:	\$513,500
CDS Request:	No		