

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2023

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 2024 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. 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.

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 and furthering the addiction and drug overdose crisis 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 disrupt today's criminal networks that cross city, state, and even international boundaries. With over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., cross-jurisdictional learning and coordination cannot happen effectively without federal support.

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 and innovate across the justice system, including 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.

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 localities. 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.

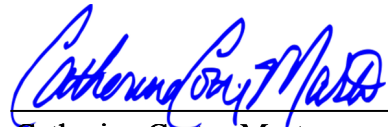
We know of your steadfast commitment to the Byrne JAG program in years past, and we appreciate that you have begun in recent years to restore funding to the program. We ask for that support to continue in the fiscal year 2024 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



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Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



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John Cornyn  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



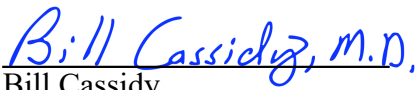
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Roger Marshall M.D.  
United States Senator

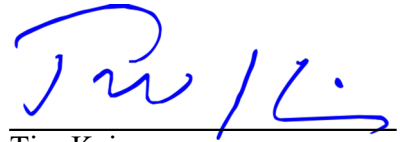


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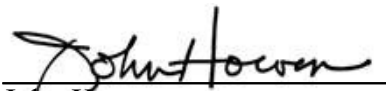
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy  
United States Senator



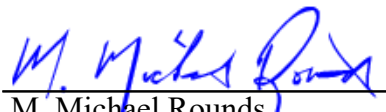
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



John Hoeven  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



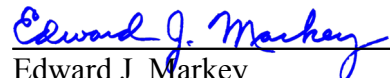
M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



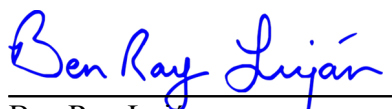
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



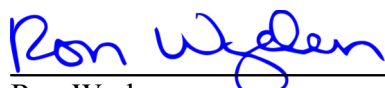
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



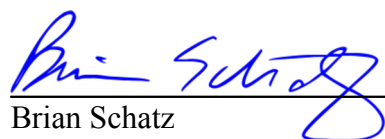
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator




Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



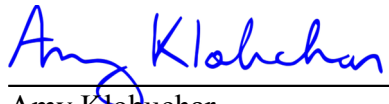
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



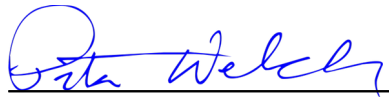
Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator




Peter Welch  
United States Senator



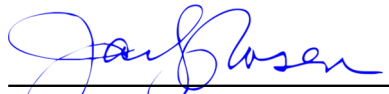
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



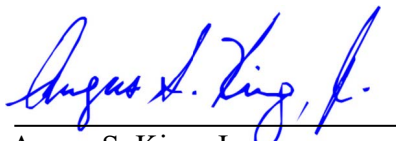
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
U.S. Senator




Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



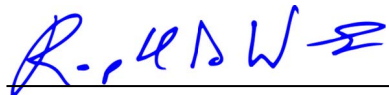
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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator

**Commerce, Justice and Science Group Letter Table**  
**CJS\_Grassley\_Group\_230405-063157[LetterID 14443]**

ID	Sub	Request Agency or Account	Request Project Name	Request (\$000)
109029	CJS Group	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office of Justice Programs (OJP)]/[State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance]/[Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program] [Member Staff] - Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872	Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program [Member's Request (text)] - highest possible level	\$0
108051	CJS Group	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)]/[OVW Topline] [Member Staff] - Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872	OVW Topline [Member's Request (text)] - fully fund the programs authorized by VAWA and raise the current funding cap on the Crime Victims Fund.	\$0
107993	CJS Group	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office of Justice Programs (OJP)]/[State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance]/[Victims of Trafficking Grants] [Member Staff] - Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872	Victims of Trafficking Grants [Member's Request (text)] - "all that you can"	\$0
109367	CJS Group	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Bureau of Prisons (BOP)]/[Salaries and Expenses] [Member Staff] - Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872	Salaries and Expenses [Member's Request (text)] - Ample funding	\$0
111516	CJS Group	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office of Justice Programs (OJP)]/[State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance]/[Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program] [Member Staff] - Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872	Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program [Member's Request (text)] - highest possible level	\$0



**Request ID: 109029**

Agency or Account:	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office of Justice Programs (OJP)]/[State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance]/[Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program]	Project Name:	Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program
Member/s:	Grassley, Chuck(R-IA); Baldwin, Tammy(D-WI); Bennet, Michael(D-CO); Blumenthal, Richard(D-CT); Brown, Sherrrod(D-OH); Cardin, Benjamin(D-MD); Carper, Thomas(D-DE); Casey, Robert(D-PA); Cassidy, Bill(R-LA); 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); Hassan, Margaret Wood(D-NH); Hickenlooper, John(D-CO); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); Hoeven, John(R-ND); 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); Ossoff, Jon(D-GA); 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); Welch, Peter(D-VT); Whitehouse, Sheldon(D-RI); Wyden, Ron(D-OR)	Subcommittee:	CJS
Request Type:	Group	Staff Contact:	Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872
Justification:	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 and furthering the addiction and drug overdose crisis across the country. Byrne JAG-funded programs facilitate crossgovernmental intelligence and information sharing on terror and criminal threats, drug and human trafficking organizations, and sexual predators. This collaboration is essential to disrupt today's criminal networks that cross city, state, and even international boundaries. With over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., cross-jurisdictional learning and coordination cannot happen effectively without federal support.		
Proposed Bill Language:		Proposed Report Language:	
Member's Request:	\$0	Member's Request (text):	highest possible level
Enacted Level:	\$0	President's Request:	\$0
CDS Request:	No		

**Request ID: 108051**

Agency or Account:	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)]/[OVW Topline]	Project Name:	OVW Topline
Member/s:	Grassley, Chuck(R-IA); Baldwin, Tammy(D-WI); Bennet, Michael(D-CO); Blumenthal, Richard(D-CT); Booker, Cory(D-NJ); Brown, Sherrod(D-OH); Cantwell, Maria(D-WA); Cardin, Benjamin(D-MD); Carper, Thomas(D-DE); Casey, Robert(D-PA); Coons, Christopher(D-DE); Cortez Masto, Catherine(D-NV); Cramer, Kevin(R-ND); Duckworth, Tammy(D-IL); Durbin, Richard(D-IL); Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA); Fetterman, John(D-PA); Gillibrand, Kirsten(D-NY); Hassan, Margaret Wood(D-NH); Hickenlooper, John(D-CO); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); Kaine, Tim(D-VA); Kelly, Mark(D-AZ); King, Angus(I-ME); Klobuchar, Amy(D-MN); Luján, Ben Ray(D-NM); Markey, Edward(D-MA); Menendez, Robert(D-NJ); Merkley, Jeff(D-OR); Murphy, Christopher(D-CT); Ossoff, Jon(D-GA); Padilla, Alex(D-CA); Peters, Gary(D-MI); Reed, Jack(D-RI); Rosen, Jacky(D-NV); Sanders, Bernard(I-VT); Schatz, Brian(D-HI); Sinema, Kyrsten(D-AZ); Smith, Tina(D-MN); Stabenow, Debbie(D-MI); Tester, Jon(D-MT); Van Hollen, Chris(D-MD); Warner, Mark(D-VA); Warnock, Raphael(D-GA); Warren, Elizabeth(D-MA); Welch, Peter(D-VT); Whitehouse, Sheldon(D-RI); Wyden, Ron(D-OR)	Subcommittee:	CJS
Request Type:	Group	Staff Contact:	Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872
Justification:	VAWA has helped hundreds of thousands of women by providing access to critical and direct services such as domestic violence shelters, legal aid, culturally specific resources, and counseling services. In addition to providing services to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, VAWA has raised public awareness about sexual and domestic violence and helped to improve the criminal justice system's response to these crimes. It is critical that these cost-effective programs be funded generously.		
Proposed Bill Language:		Proposed Report Language:	
Member's Request:	\$0	Member's Request (text):	fully fund the programs authorized by VAWA and raise the current funding cap on the Crime Victims Fund.
Enacted Level:	\$0	President's Request:	\$0
CDS Request:	No		

**Request ID: 107993**

Agency or Account:	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office of Justice Programs (OJP)]/[State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance]/[Victims of Trafficking Grants]	Project Name:	Victims of Trafficking Grants
Member/s:	Grassley, Chuck(R-IA); Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA)	Subcommittee:	CJS
Request Type:	Group	Staff Contact:	Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872
Justification:	Support services for victims and survivors of domestic human trafficking, who are too often invisible and underserved, serve a critically important role in our country. Grants provide victims and survivors with much-needed medical care, counseling, training, temporary housing, and other services to help them heal from the life-shattering effects of these terrible crimes. We encourage you to continue to do all that you can to make services to human trafficking victims and survivors a continued priority in the year's appropriations process.		
Proposed Bill Language:		Proposed Report Language:	
Member's Request:	\$0	Member's Request (text):	"all that you can"
Enacted Level:	\$0	President's Request:	\$0
CDS Request:	No		

**Request ID: 109367**

Agency or Account:	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Bureau of Prisons (BOP)]/[Salaries and Expenses]	Project Name:	Salaries and Expenses
Member/s:	Grassley, Chuck(R-IA); Baldwin, Tammy(D-WI); Blumenthal, Richard(D-CT); Booker, Cory(D-NJ); Brown, Sherrod(D-OH); Cardin, Benjamin(D-MD); Carper, Thomas(D-DE); Casey, Robert(D-PA); Coons, Christopher(D-DE); Cramer, Kevin(R-ND); Duckworth, Tammy(D-IL); Durbin, Richard(D-IL); Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); King, Angus(I-ME); Markey, Edward(D-MA); Menendez, Robert(D-NJ); Ossoff, Jon(D-GA); Padilla, Alex(D-CA); Sanders, Bernard(I-VT); Schatz, Brian(D-HI); Smith, Tina(D-MN); 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:	Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872
Justification:	<p>The First Step Act is the most significant criminal justice reform legislation in a generation. In 2018, it passed the Senate 87-12 and was signed into law by then President Trump. One of its primary goals is encouraging prisoners to successfully complete effective and evidence-based recidivism programming so that they will not re-offend once they return to their communities.</p> <p>This year's request is commensurate with previous fiscal year funding and reflects the broad bipartisan nature of funding to support the successful implementation of the First Step Act. For instance, in FY23, the Biden Administration requested robust funding of \$409.5 million. Similarly, the Administration prioritized criminal justice reform in its FY 2022 budget justification by requesting \$409 million in new funding for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to support robust implementation of the First Step Act. Congress responded by providing \$409.5 million in the FY 2023 omnibus for First Step Act implementation.</p> <p>We request that you include the attached bill and report language directing the appropriated funds to be used ONLY for First Step Act implementation and directing DOJ and BOP to fully and expeditiously comply with the First Step Act's reporting and programing requirements. And stop transferring money to DOL.</p>		
Proposed Bill Language:	Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated to implement Title 1 of the First Step Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-391) for recidivism reduction shall be available only for that purpose.	Proposed Report Language:	The Committee directs the Department of Justice and Bureau of Prisons to fully and expeditiously implement the First Step Act (P.L. 115-391). The Committee is concerned that the Department has not met several reporting deadlines and not fully implemented several provisions of the Act. The Committee directs the Department to expeditiously expand programming and file all required reports no later than the deadlines established by the Act. The Department shall report to the Committees on Appropriations and Judiciary of the House and the Senate, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, on all actions and expenditures to implement the First Step Act, including activities and expenditures to implement, review, validate, and maintain the risk and needs assessment system and to evaluate and provide evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities.
Member's Request:	\$0	Member's Request (text):	Ample funding
Enacted Level:	\$0	President's Request:	\$0
CDS Request:	No		

**Request ID: 111516**

Agency or Account:	[Title II]/[Department of Justice]/[Office of Justice Programs (OJP)]/[State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance]/[Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program]	Project Name:	Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program
Member/s:	Grassley, Chuck(R-IA); Bennet, Michael(D-CO); Brown, Sherrod(D-OH); Cardin, Benjamin(D-MD); Carper, Thomas(D-DE); Casey, Robert(D-PA); Cassidy, Bill(R-LA); Cornyn, John(R-TX); Cortez Masto, Catherine(D-NV); Cramer, Kevin(R-ND); Duckworth, Tammy(D-IL); Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA); Hickenlooper, John(D-CO); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); Hoeven, John(R-ND); Kaine, Tim(D-VA); Kelly, Mark(D-AZ); King, Angus(I-ME); Klobuchar, Amy(D-MN); Manchin, Joe(D-WV); Markey, Edward(D-MA); Marshall, Roger(R-KS); Menendez, Robert(D-NJ); Murphy, Christopher(D-CT); Padilla, Alex(D-CA); Reed, Jack(D-RI); Rosen, Jacky(D-NV); Rounds, Mike(R-SD); Sanders, Bernard(I-VT); 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); Welch, Peter(D-VT); Whitehouse, Sheldon(D-RI); Wyden, Ron(D-OR)	Subcommittee:	CJS
Request Type:	Group	Staff Contact:	Michael Perkins Michael_Perkins@judiciary-rep.senate.gov 202-224-6872
Justification:	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 and furthering the addiction and drug overdose crisis across the country. Byrne JAG-funded programs facilitate crossgovernmental intelligence and information sharing on terror and criminal threats, drug and human trafficking organizations, and sexual predators. This collaboration is essential to disrupt today's criminal networks that cross city, state, and even international boundaries. With over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., cross-jurisdictional learning and coordination cannot happen effectively without federal support.		
Proposed Bill Language:		Proposed Report Language:	
Member's Request:	\$0	Member's Request (text):	highest possible level
Enacted Level:	\$0	President's Request:	\$0
CDS Request:	No		