

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

June 22, 2016

Ronald L. Davis  
Director  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services  
145 N Street NE  
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Letter of Support - New Jersey State Police's Drug Monitoring Initiative

Dear Director Davis:

We write in strong support of the 2016 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Program application submitted by the New Jersey State Police Drug Monitoring Initiative. The grant will fund equipment, supplies, and overtime costs associated with targeting the use and distribution of heroin.

The AHTF Program was developed by the U.S. Department of Justice to provide statewide law enforcement agencies with sufficient funding to investigate the unlawful distribution of prescription opioids and heroin. The abuse of heroin and prescription opioids in the United States has risen to epidemic levels, and has become one of the foremost public health and safety challenges we face today. In New Jersey, the widespread use of opioids and heroin has been particularly challenging. The demand for opioid prescription painkillers and the ease of accessibility of heroin continues to be a concern. Furthermore, as the price of heroin continues to drop, purity levels are on the rise. A recent New York/New Jersey High-Intensity Drug Transit Area (HIDTA) threat assessment revealed heroin to be the primary drug threat within the NY/NJ HIDTA.

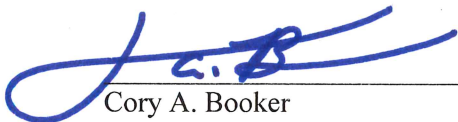
In response to the opioid-heroin epidemic, the New Jersey State Police developed the Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) to collect and analyze millions of records from drug-related incidents across the state, thereby gaining a thorough understanding of New Jersey's drug problem. The DMI has been critical in the development of effective drug policies and the coordination of statewide law enforcement and healthcare efforts. New Jersey's DMI has identified several areas of concern, including the lack of technology needed to enhance the sharing of information among agencies, and gaps in coordination across law enforcement and healthcare professionals.

If awarded, this grant will support the creation of the New Jersey State Police's Anti-Heroin Task Force, which will enhance current DMI operations to investigate the distribution and use of heroin in the state, and coordinate efforts to address the epidemic. Specifically, this funding will facilitate the collaboration between DMI and its core partner entities, and enhance public safety and public health by improving interagency communications and streamlining the sharing of critical information and intelligence

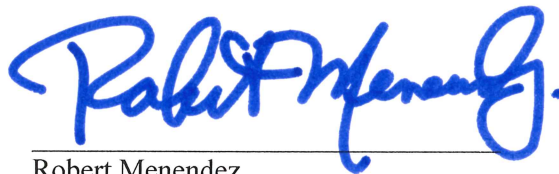
gathering. Additionally, this grant will fund strategic heroin-based drug enforcement operations based on real-time actionable intelligence, and strengthen relationships with community-based organizations that operate within the most affected areas.

New Jersey's State Police are deeply committed to tackling this urgent public safety and health crisis. It has made significant investments and developed compelling strategies to coordinate resources and responses across the state. However, adequate funding and additional resources are crucial to the success of its investments and strategies. As members of New Jersey's Congressional delegation, we offer our strong support to the New Jersey State Police's application for the COPS AHTF grant opportunity. We thank you in advance for your time and careful consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



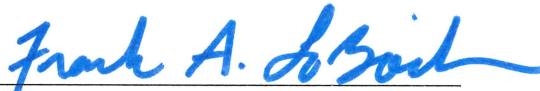
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



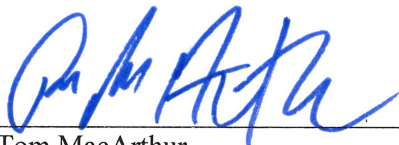
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Donald Norcross  
United States Representative



Frank LoBiondo  
United States Representative



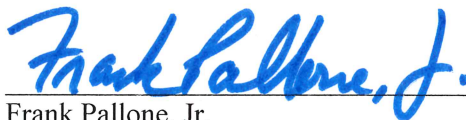
Tom MacArthur  
United States Representative



Christopher H. Smith  
United States Representative



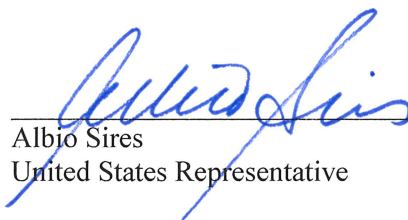
Scott Garrett  
United States Representative



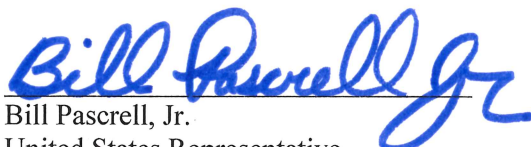
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
United States Representative

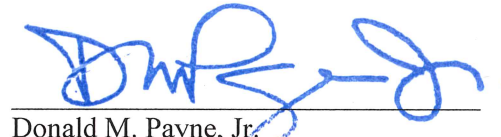


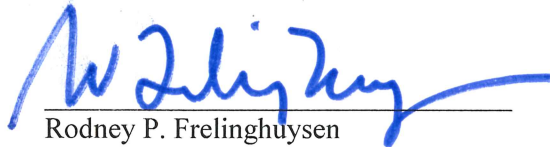
Leonard Lance  
United States Representative

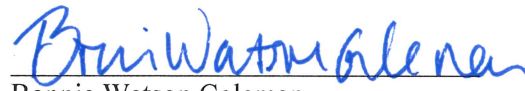


Albio Sires  
United States Representative

  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
United States Representative

  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
United States Representative

  
Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
United States Representative

  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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