

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Commerce, Justice, & Science Subcommittee
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Vice Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Commerce, Justice, & Science Subcommittee
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby and Senator Shaheen:

As you consider funding levels for Fiscal Year 2019, we urge you to fund the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program at a minimum of \$225.5 million, the amount appropriated for the program in FY 2018. This program plays an essential role in our federal government's support for local law enforcement and should therefore receive the highest possible level of funding.

The COPS Hiring program represents a fiscally responsible solution to ensure that our communities remain safe; the Brookings Institution found it to be "one of the most cost-effective options available for fighting crime." When officers establish a presence on their patrols using community policing principles, they can develop positive relationships with the communities they serve. In turn, these relationships increase law enforcement's ability to solve local crimes and resolve public safety problems. This proactive approach to policing prevents crime from occurring, saving taxpayers the high societal costs associated with crime, incarceration, and services for victims.

Since its creation, the COPS Office has assisted over 13,000 of the nation's 16,000 jurisdictions with over \$14 billion in funding to hire approximately 129,000 additional officers. In FY 2017, the COPS Hiring Program granted over \$98 million to 179 law enforcement agencies to hire, preserve, or rehire 802 full-time law enforcement officers. There were heightened restrictions for funding requests in FY 2017, leading many communities to forego applications, but still over 3,000 officers were requested, representing close to \$410 million in funding. The \$225.5 million requested is a small fraction of the \$1 billion appropriated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and less than the \$298 million previously appropriated in FY 2010.

We are supported in this request by law enforcement organizations including the National Association of Police Organizations, Fraternal Order of Police, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Major Cities Chiefs Association. We appreciate the hard work and leadership that you have shown on these issues. Ongoing crime and violence in our cities continue to demonstrate the vital need for increased police protection in our communities. Therefore, as you determine the funding levels for this program, we ask that you support funding for the COPS Hiring Program at the highest possible level.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.


Sincerely,

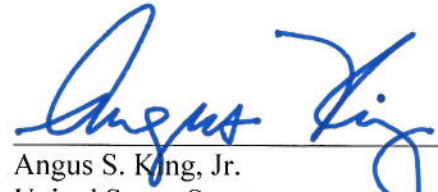

Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

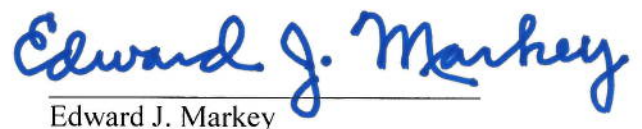

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Tom Udall
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

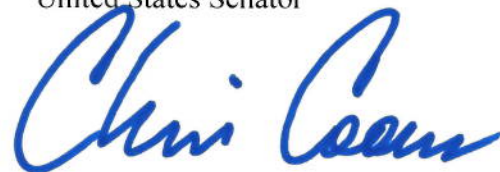

Brian Schatz
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Jack Reed
United States Senator


Gary C. Peters
United States Senator


Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator


Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



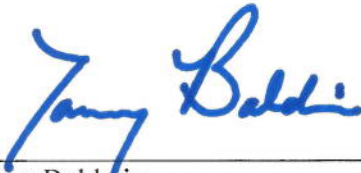
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



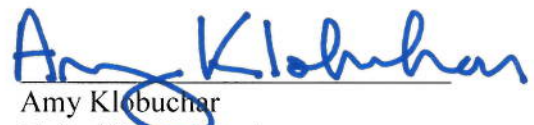
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



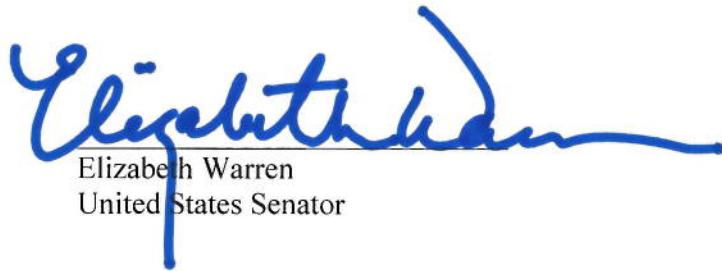
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



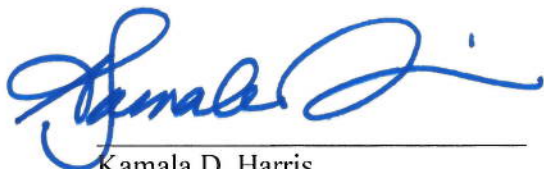
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



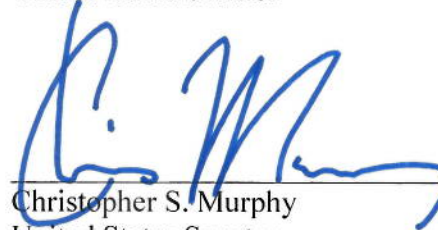
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



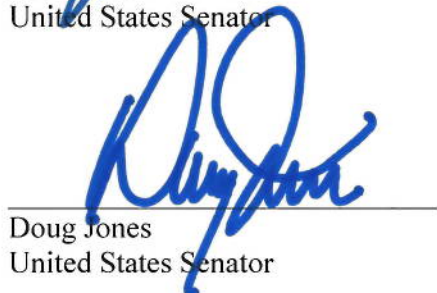
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bernard Sanders", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator