

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Mikulski:

We write to thank you for your continued support of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program, and to urge you to include full funding for RISS in the Fiscal Year 2016 CJS Appropriations Bill.

RISS allows law enforcement agencies across the country to successfully resolve criminal investigations, apprehend and prosecute offenders, and ensure officer and public safety. Agencies from across the country rely on RISS for information and intelligence sharing, officer safety event deconfliction, and investigative support services. RISS serves almost 9,000 state, local, tribal, and federal agencies, including many smaller law enforcement agencies. Through RISS, these agencies receive services and resources that otherwise would not be available to them. RISS also plays an important role in federal information sharing initiatives.

In FY 2011, RISS received \$45 million. Last year, it received \$30 million. Reductions in its funding have had an effect on RISS's law enforcement operations, although the Appropriations Committees have mitigated the potential damage by funding the program at a level higher than that requested in the President's budget for each of the past five years.

RISS supports and partners with 1,057 federal agencies, such as the National Data Exchange, the Office of the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment, the Homeland Security Information Network, the United States Secret Service's Targeted Violence Information Sharing System, the Medicaid Fraud Control Units, and the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System. Agencies seek RISS's support because of its proven, trusted, and solutions-based approach.

RISS is an innovative, cost-effective, and evidence-based program that provides an excellent return on investment for our nation. Over the last 10 years, officers leveraging RISS's services have arrested almost 47,000 offenders and seized more than \$600 million in narcotics, property, and currency. More than 40 million intelligence and investigative records are available through


RISS's Secure Cloud (RISSNET). In addition, through the RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction Systems (RISSafe), more than 321,000 undercover operations, buy-busts, and other law enforcement events have been identified as possible conflicts, thus avoiding potential blue-on-blue tragedies. Without RISS's services and resources, many more criminals, drugs, stolen property and other contraband would still be on our streets. Every day, officers use RISS to help solve cases and stay safe.

We appreciate your leadership on this and other law enforcement issues, and urge your continued support for RISS in Fiscal Year 2016. If you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact us or have your staff contact Michael Fischer with Senator Whitehouse at (202) 224-9508 or Elizabeth Frei with Senator Hoeven at (202) 224-2551.

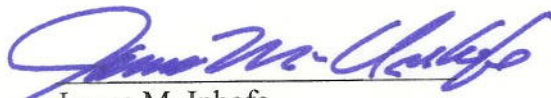
Sincerely,



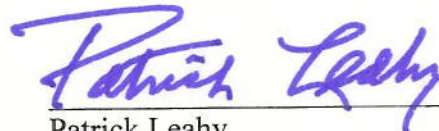
John Hoeven  
United States Senator




Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



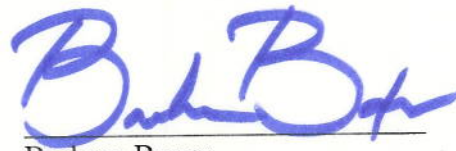
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



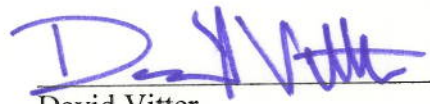
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



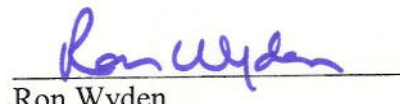
Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



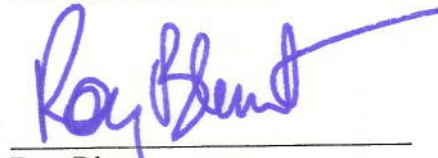
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



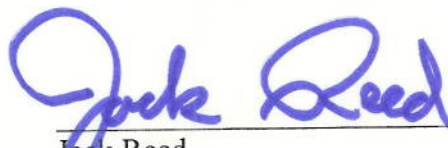
David Vitter  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

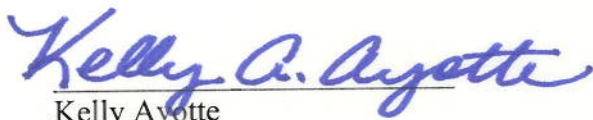


Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator

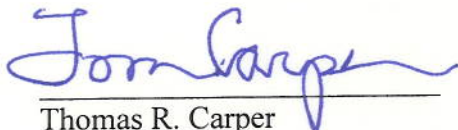




Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



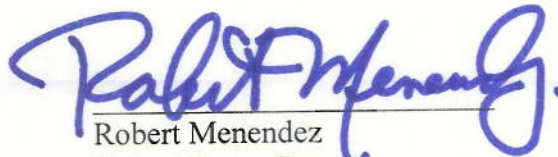
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



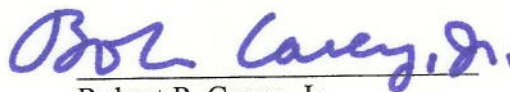
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



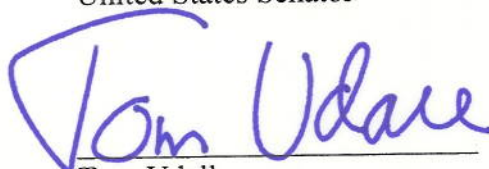
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



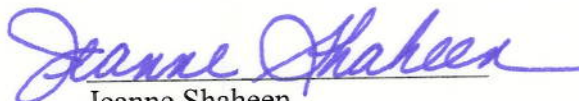
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



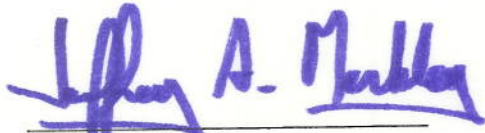
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



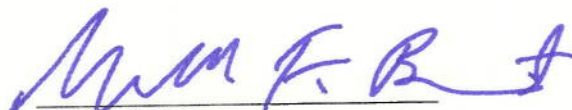
Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



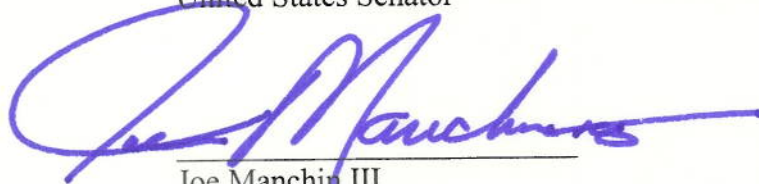
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



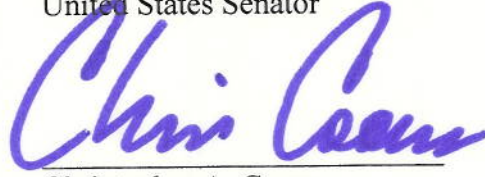
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



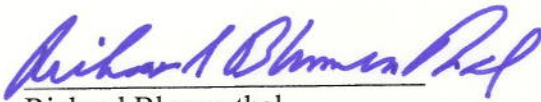
Al Franken  
United States Senator



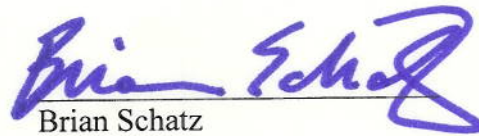
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



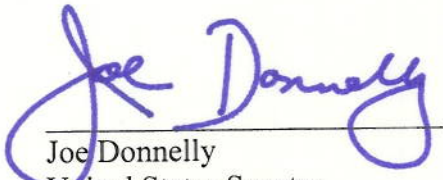
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



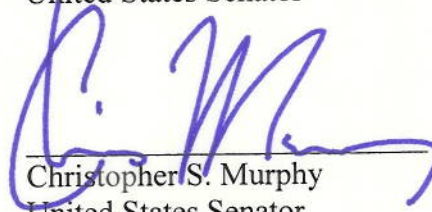
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



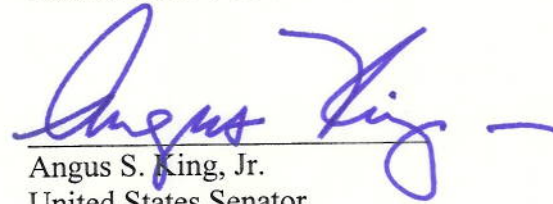
Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator



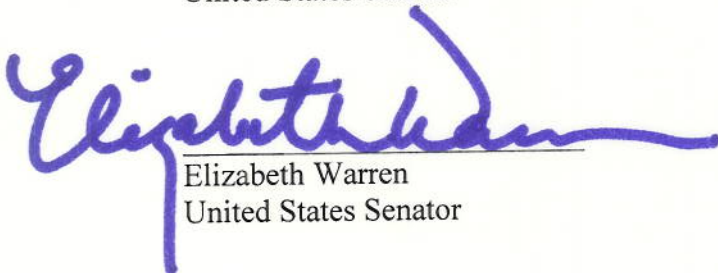
Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



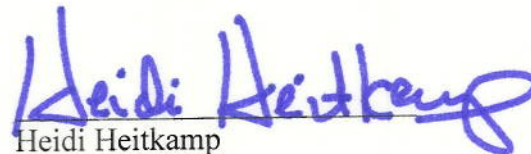
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



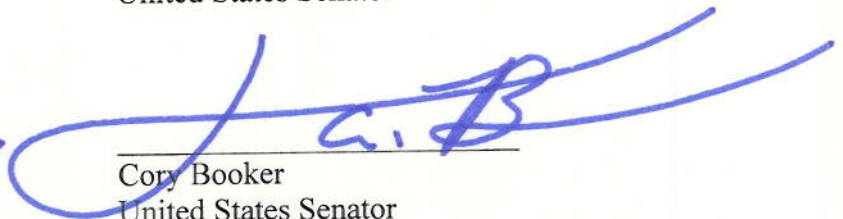
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



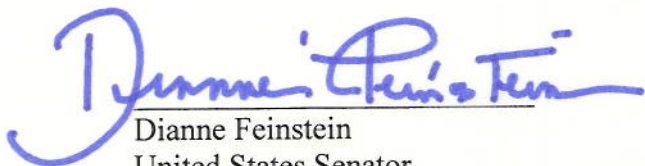
Cory Booker  
United States Senator



Gary Peters  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator