



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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November 13, 2015

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The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Honda
Acting Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Shelby and Mikulski and Congressmen Culberson and Honda:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to request that Congress maintain the integrity of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program in the FY16 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Specifically, we request that the cost of reimbursing the host cities for security at the presidential nominating conventions not be at the expense of the Byrne JAG program.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

Byrne JAG is the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, supporting the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices. States, territories, cities and counties all across this nation use Byrne JAG funding to test emerging and evidence-based approaches to the public safety challenges facing their jurisdictions. It runs counter to the very purpose of the program to use the funds for the operational needs of two cities for a specific event.

Furthermore, we urge you to maintain both the \$100 million the House added to Byrne JAG to pay for officer hiring and the \$187 million the Senate provided for the COPS Hiring Program. The COPS Hiring Program and Byrne JAG are critical to ensuring that state and local law enforcement have the personnel, tools and resources necessary to protect and serve their communities.

We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction, and we thank you for your work and leadership on these important issues. Please contact me at (703) 549-0775 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director