



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

12 July 2011

The Honorable Harold D. Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Representative Dicks,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to express our grave concern with the draft version of the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations measure for the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies.

The draft bill would completely eliminate the hiring program administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), which the law enforcement community has identified as one of the most successful and vital programs assisting State and local law enforcement. At a time when law enforcement agencies are laying off or dismissing their officers, it seems at variance with common sense and good public policy to terminate this critical program.

In addition, the draft legislation drastically and disproportionately reduces funding for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) program, which has been cut sixteen percent below FY2011 levels and thirty percent below FY2010 levels. The Byrne-JAG program is the cornerstone of our national crime prevention and crime-fighting strategy, enabling communities to target resources to their most pressing local needs. Critical collaboration occurs among local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies through Byrne-JAG funded multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, enabling law enforcement agencies to join together in targeting regional drug trafficking organizations.

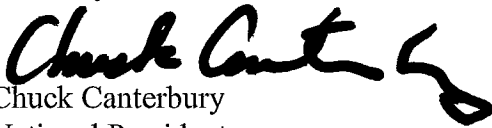
The draft legislation also cuts funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), which provides Federal payments to States and local governments for the incarceration of persons illegally present in the United States who have committed other serious crimes. The Federal government has asserted quite forcefully that the enforcement of immigration law is the province of the Federal government and has made the deportation of dangerous criminal aliens a priority. It is at variance with common sense and abhorrent to public policy to burden local and State agencies with costs directly associated with these alien offenders.

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

In light of the critical nature of these programs, we respectfully urge the Committee to take such steps to restore the COPS hiring program and sufficient funding for the Byrne-JAG and SCAAP programs. The funding levels provided in this legislation do not just reduce costs, they also reduce the safety of the public, the officers on patrol, and the quality of life in our communities.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for your leadership and consideration of our views on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco through my Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chuck Canterbury
National President

cc: The Honorable Frank R. Wolf, Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Chaka Fattah, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations