United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Moran Chairman Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations The Honorable Chris Van Hollen Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

As you consider funding levels for Fiscal Year 2026, we urge you to fund the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program at a minimum of \$270 million.

The COPS Hiring Program represents a fiscally responsible solution to ensure that our communities remain safe. CHP provides funds directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new or rehire additional career law enforcement officers and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. 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.

To date, the COPS Office has been appropriated more than \$20 billion to advance community policing including grants awarded to more than 15,000 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of more than 136,000 officers. In 2024, the program awarded 235 grants across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In total, the program allowed for the funding of 1193 officer positions. COPS Hiring plays an essential role in our federal government's support for local law enforcement and should therefore receive the highest possible level of funding.

We are supported in this request by law enforcement organizations including the National Fraternal Order of Police, National Association of Police Organizations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, and the Major Cities Chiefs Association. We appreciate the hard work and leadership that you have shown on these issues. Ongoing crime and violence across the country demonstrates 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,

Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator

Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell United States Senator

Tim Kaine United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr. United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet United States Senator Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner United States Senator

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Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

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Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Andy Kim United States Senator

Elissa Slotkin United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Jack Reed

United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin United States Senator

Edward J. Markey United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren United States Senator