

December 07, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jean Shaheen
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Leahy, Shaheen, DeLauro, and Cartwright and Ranking Members Shelby, Moran, Granger, and Aderholt:

The more than 70 undersigned organizations urge Congress to finalize as soon as possible FY23 appropriations and pass an omnibus FY23 spending bill to provide robust funding for important DOJ justice assistance grant programs through the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies bill. Fully funded FY23 appropriations provides an important opportunity for Congress to provide critical resources to key grant programs that have begun to make additional progress after constrained funding levels from sequestration.

The organizations listed below represent stakeholders from across the system – including states, counties, municipalities, and organizations that work on juvenile justice, crime prevention, law enforcement, victim services, prosecution, indigent defense, problem solving courts, behavioral health treatment, corrections and community corrections, justice system reform, and reentry, as well as those that represent system-impacted individuals and families. Justice assistance grants have spurred innovations and initiatives replicated by federal agencies and jurisdictions nationwide. Supporting DOJ grant programs would help continue the bipartisan work taking place nationwide to transform the criminal legal system in ways that promote fairness, reliability, and equity while increasing public safety.

Additionally, funds are needed now to support states, localities, and organizations shouldering the burden of the overdose and mental health crises facing our nation. Overdose deaths and suicides are at their highest levels and ensuring funding for programs that help to reduce the severity and impact of these urgent issues is paramount.

Thank you for working to finalize and pass FY23 appropriations as soon as possible to provide resources for critical services and innovations. We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you in the coming weeks as this issue moves forward.

Sincerely,

A Little Piece Of Light
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Leadership Foothills-area Alliance (ALFA)
Alianza for Youth Justice
American Youth Policy Forum
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Boys Town
CAN-DO Foundation
Center for Disability Rights
Child Welfare League of America
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Columbia Justice Lab
Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations
CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants)
Drug Policy Alliance
First Focus Campaign for Children
First Step Alliance
Forsyth Regional Opioid & Substance Use Team
Fruit of Labor Action Research & Technical Assistance, LLC
Heal Da Homies
Healthy Teen Network
Human Rights for Kids
Innocence Project
Interfaith Action for Human Rights
Jewish Women International
Justice Policy Institute
Justice Strategies
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Major County Sheriffs of America
MENTOR National
Metropolitan AME Church
NASTAD (National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors)
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association of Counties
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

National Association of Drug Court Professionals
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Maryland Chapter
National Criminal Justice Association
National Crittenton
National District Attorneys Association
National Employment Law Project
National Harm Reduction Coalition
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
National Juvenile Justice Network
National League of Cities
National Legal Aid & Defender Association
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition
National Network for Youth, Inc.
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Beginnings Commercial & Residential Cleaning Services, LLC
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
On The Bright Side
Opportunity Youth United
REDF (Roberts Enterprise Development Fund)
Safer Foundation
Strategies for Youth
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
The Center for Employment Opportunities
The Forum for Youth Investment
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
The Porchlight Collective SAP
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
Treatment Advocacy Center
Underwood Legacy Fund, LLC
Washington Office on Latin America
Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc.
YMCA of the USA
Youth Correctional Leaders for Justice