

**MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION  
POLICE EXECUTIVE RESEARCH FORUM  
THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

July 6, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman  
The Honorable Norm Dicks, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf, Chairman  
The Honorable Chaka Fattah, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We write on behalf of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and Police Executive Research Forum to urge that you provide at least current funding for COPS Hiring and Byrne Justice Assistance grants next year.

We have seen the committee print which proposes to eliminate the COPS Program entirely and to cut Byrne JAG grants to \$357 million, 16 percent below this year's level and 30 percent below last year's level. At a time when cities are being forced to lay off police officers, these cuts to the federal government's primary source of support for local police departments are unconscionable.

The proposed bill would cut state and local law enforcement programs disproportionately – by 39 percent. They would be reduced by \$1.1 billion next year, more than the total cut to the U.S. Department of Justice. While we understand the severe fiscal constraints facing the Committee, we are confident that needed funding reductions could be spread more equitably across the Commerce, Justice, Science spending bill.

It is ironic that these cuts are proposed at the same time that some cities are being forced to lay off police officers to balance their budgets. COPS grants can be used to avoid having to layoff officers and to rehire those already laid off. Byrne grants provide flexible funds to police departments which they can use to meet their greatest needs.

Public safety is the last thing we should be putting on the chopping block. The proposed cuts to the federal government's primary source of support for local police departments are untimely and ill advised, and a threat to public safety.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Nutter  
Mayor of Philadelphia  
Vice President  
Chairman, Task Force on Mayors  
and Police Chiefs  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Charles Ramsey  
Commissioner  
Philadelphia Police Department  
President, Police Executive Research Forum  
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association