

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 9, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Attorney General Sessions,

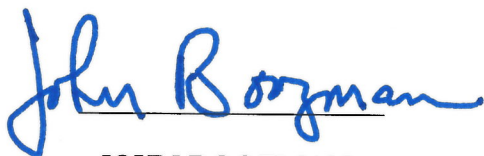
We write today regarding the decision by the Department of Justice to withhold Fiscal Year 2017 funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG).

The Byrne JAG program is vital to supporting local law enforcement and combatting drug problems and violent crime in our states. We are keenly aware of the Administration's decision to impose new requirements on the Byrne JAG program and the ongoing legal challenges associated with them. However, it has come to our attention that the Department of Justice is withholding these grants from all recipients, regardless of whether they are in compliance with the new requirements or not.

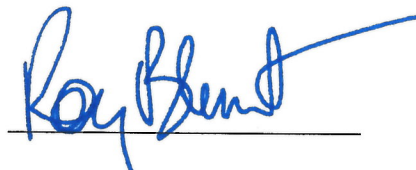
Byrne JAG is the largest source of federal justice funding to help states and local law enforcement agencies purchase essential equipment and support drug treatment and enforcement activities. With increased efforts to combat the opioid epidemic, Byrne JAG funding for local law enforcement is more important than ever. The Department's decision to withhold all FY17 Byrne JAG awards has left our states short of the resources they need to be a partner with the federal government on shared law enforcement responsibilities.

We respectfully urge you to reconsider the decision to withhold this funding to states that are in compliance with federal immigration law so that those jurisdictions have the tools they need to serve their communities and meet their vital mission.

Sincerely,



JOHN BOOZMAN
U.S. Senator



ROY BLUNT
U.S. Senator



JOHN HOEVEN
U.S. Senator



LINDSEY O. GRAHAM
U.S. Senator



SHERROD BROWN
U.S. Senator



JAMES LANKFORD
U.S. Senator



CLAIRE MCCASKILL
U.S. Senator