

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi,

I write to strongly advocate that we increase federal funding for state and local law enforcement in this year's appropriations bill. Public safety is one of the most important tasks of any government; people, families, and the economy cannot thrive without safe communities. Yet we have repeatedly seen attempts to decrease funding for our law enforcement. These attempts undermine the incredible bravery and dedication law enforcement show every day in protecting our communities.

Federal programs like the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program and grants issued by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) are essential to state and local law enforcement agencies across the nation, and Congress has a responsibility to ensure that we provide the resources necessary to keep our communities safe.

As chair of the Homeland Security Emerging Threats subcommittee, I recently held a hearing in New Hampshire where I heard from federal and state law enforcement officials about the challenges facing our communities, especially their joint efforts to stop the drug traffickers who continue to perpetuate the devastating opioid and broader substance misuse crisis. Federal support is critical to their efforts, to help cover the cost of officer hiring, overtime, technology, supplies, and more. Task forces made up of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers are an effective means of combating crime, pairing local familiarity with federal expertise and resources. Programs like COPS Office and Edward Byrne JAG grants help ensure these task forces are able to continue their important work.

I was pleased to see President Biden's announcement that he will seek \$20.6 billion in funding for the next fiscal year for federal law enforcement, crime prevention, and intervention programs, an increase of \$2 billion over the previous year's budget, and \$30 billion in new spending over

the next 10 years on law enforcement and crime prevention programs. As Congress begins its annual appropriations process, we must increase funding for police.

Safe communities are essential to the quality of life of our citizens and to our economic growth. I urge you to make sure that Congress does its part, by providing the brave men and women of law enforcement the resources they need to protect all of us.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Hassan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator