

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0505

November 3, 2011

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Conferees:

As you continue to consider FY 2012 funding levels, I strongly urge you to support the Senate's funding level of \$231.5 million for the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs.

The COPS programs provide funding to local law enforcement agencies to help reduce crime rates by address problems at their root. Through this funding, local law enforcement agencies are able to hire, and retain, officers and work with community members to create strategic partnerships in addressing crime prevention at the neighborhood level. Additionally, this funding helps local agencies create and implement best practice strategies that target some of our nation's most heinous and costly repeat offenders.

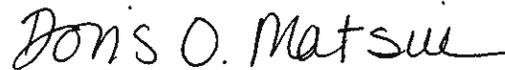
With severe state and local budget cuts across the nation, COPS Hiring Program funding has become critical in helping local law enforcement agencies maintain adequate staffing levels to keep our streets safe. For many years, the City of Sacramento Police Department and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department have incorporated Community Oriented Policing practices throughout their agencies, but are now faced with deep cuts that have reduced their staffing below adequate levels. Recently, federal support through the COPS Hiring Program has allowed the Police and Sheriff's Departments to hire and re-hire 50 officers, and create a regional gang suppression and juvenile crime prevention unit to address the increase in gang violence and recruitment across California's Central Valley.

Law enforcement leaders are dedicated to maintaining safe and livable neighborhoods, but as city, county and state funding is reduced, this task becomes even more difficult. Additional cuts to funding for Community Oriented Policing Services programs would be devastating to the Sacramento region and the nation. I respectfully request that you work to provide these public servants the tools and resources they need to keep our communities safe by ensuring that the FY

2012 minibus mark include funding for the COPS programs at the \$231.5 million level, as requested by the Senate. This funding is essential to ensuring the safety and security our communities need and deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

CC: Rep. Robert B. Aderholt
Sen. Roy Blunt
Rep. Jo Bonner
Sen. Sherrod Brown
Rep. John R. Carter
Sen. Susan Collins
Rep. John Culberson
Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Rep. Jo Ann Emerson
Rep. Sam Farr
Rep. Chaka Fattah
Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Sen. Tom Harkin
Sen. John Hoeven
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
Sen. Tim Johnson
Rep. Jack Kingston
Sen. Herb Kohl
Rep. Tom Latham
Rep. Steven C. LaTourette
Rep. Jerry Lewis
Sen. Mitch McConnell
Sen. Barbara Mikulski
Sen. Jerry Moran
Sen. Patty Murray
Sen. Ben Nelson
Rep. John Olver
Rep. Ed Pastor
Rep. David Price
Sen. Mark Pryor
Rep. Adam Schiff
Sen. Richard Shelby
Rep. Frank R. Wolf
Rep. C.W. Bill Young