

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
1016 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano, Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Members Aderholt and Granger,

We are writing to request that you include the highest practical funding level for Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Programs grants within the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office at the Department of Justice in the FY21 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act was signed into law in January 2018 and established a grant program for local law enforcement agencies to develop knowledge, increase awareness of effective mental health and wellness strategies, increase the skills and abilities of law enforcement, and establish peer support programs.

This funding is needed now more than ever. Each year, more than three times as many officers die by suicide than die from line-of-duty shootings. In 2019, Blue H.E.L.P. reported that at least 228 officers died by suicide – the highest number since they began tracking officer deaths. In addition, many officers suffer in silence, unable to access counseling or programs to cope with the hundreds of micro-traumas that police officers experience every time they put on their uniform. Law enforcement officers experience PTSD and depression at five and four times the rate of the general public, respectively.

We ask that as you draft the FY21 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill you include the highest practical level of funding for LEMHWA Program grants. These critical funds will go a long way towards helping law enforcement officers across America get the treatment and support they need to live healthy lives. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress


Max Rose
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



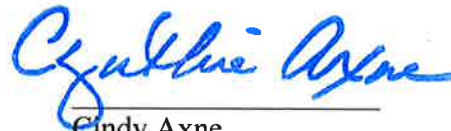
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



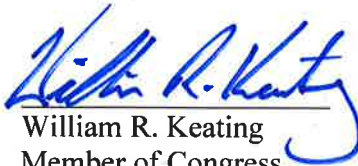
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress



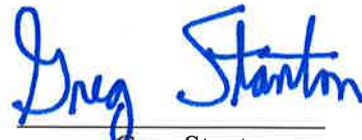
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



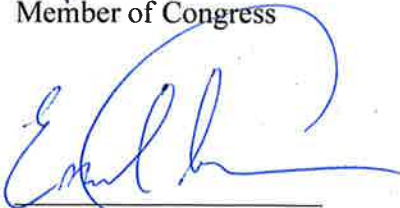
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
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