



# Justice Bulletin

National Criminal Justice Association [www.ncja.org](http://www.ncja.org)

## Government Affairs Issue

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### President Trump Releases FY26 Budget Request to Congress

Late last Friday, President Trump released the first budget request of his second term. In it, the President proposes numerous changes to the Department of Justice (DOJ) structure and the elimination of several dozen, mostly smaller grant programs. Overall, the budget proposes a 22.6 percent reduction in non-defense discretionary spending, while requesting a 13 percent increase for defense and a 65 percent increase for the Department of Homeland Security. It would cut the Department of Justice funding from \$36 billion in FY25 to \$33.2 billion in FY26, or 7.6 percent, and cut the state and local grant programs (other than Victims of Crime Act programs) by a little over \$1 billion. While any president's budget is only a proposal to Congress and a statement of priorities, this year's budget will have more salience given that the President's party controls both chambers of Congress.

The President's **budget** requests a nearly 10 percent reduction for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program and a 25 percent reduction for the Office on Violence Against Women state formula STOP grant program. Many of the remaining programs recommended for continued funding saw slight reductions or level funding. The budget requests that the cap on the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) be set at \$1.9 billion, or \$1.795 billion after carve-outs, a slight increase from FY25. However, the final amount for Victims of Crime Act-related programs will be decided in the appropriations process based on the balance in the CVF available for distribution at the time. The budget notes that funding for programs, including the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP), would continue in FY26 as authorized and funded by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA).

As previewed in the President's initial "**skinny budget**" **memo**, the budget proposes to eliminate several DOJ grant programs, including the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and the Community Violence Intervention (CVI) discretionary grant program (though \$50 million from BSCA for CVI is expected to continue). Also, the budget did not include funding for the continued implementation of the Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act.

Select grant programs comparing the FY24 and FY25 levels with the FY26 budget request are below, and download NCJA's updated **Justice Assistance Table**.

#### Bureau of Justice Assistance grant programs:

- Byrne JAG formula (after carve-outs):  
FY24: \$345.5 million. FY25: \$395.5 million. FY26 budget: \$358.5 million
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment:  
FY24: \$35 million. FY25: \$35 million. FY26 budget: \$35 million
- DNA analysis grants:  
FY24: \$153 million. FY25: \$153 million. FY26 budget:

#### Office for Victims of Crime grant program:

- Victims of Crime Act-related programs (after carve-outs):  
FY24: \$1.195 billion. FY25: \$1.715 billion. FY26 budget: \$1.795 billion

#### Office on Violence Against Women grant programs:

- STOP formula grants:

*\$148 million*

- Criminal history records (NCHIP and NARIP):

*FY24: \$88 million. FY25: \$88 million. FY26 budget: \$88 million (Note: \$25 million is carved out for NICS purposes. Plus, an additional \$40 million from BSCA)*

- Justice Reinvestment Initiative:

*FY24: \$32 million. FY25: \$32 million. FY26 budget: \$0*

- Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program:

*FY24: \$189 million. FY25: \$189 million. FY26 budget: \$189 million*

- Justice and Mental Health Collaborative:

*FY24: \$40 million. FY25: \$40 million. FY26 budget: \$40 million*

- Prescription Drug Monitoring:

*FY24: \$35 million. FY25: \$35 million. FY26 budget: \$35 million*

- Drug courts:

*FY24: \$89 million. FY25: \$89 million. FY26 budget: \$89 million*

*FY24: \$255 million. FY25: \$255 million. FY26 budget: \$190 million*

#### **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency**

**Prevention** grant programs:

- Title II formula grants:

*FY24: \$65 million. FY25: \$65 million. FY26 budget: \$65 million*

**COPS Office** grant programs:

- COPS Hiring grants (after carve-outs):

*FY23: \$224 million. FY24: \$157 million. FY25 budget: \$270 million.*

- Law enforcement de-escalation training implementation

*FY24: \$20 million. FY25: \$20 million. FY26 budget: \$0*

The budget assumes consolidation of the granting agencies, noting that “[t]he Department’s grants components, including the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ), and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), will be consolidated into the OJP...[to] eliminate duplicative positions, infrastructure, and programs.” Moving OVW to OJP would require congressional action. A March 25 [memo](#) from the Deputy Attorney General asked all DOJ components to provide feedback on the possible agency consolidation.

Also, the budget proposes to merge the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) into the Drug Enforcement Administration and prioritizes ATF resources “toward illegal firearms traffickers fueling violent crime and crime gun tracing that State and local law enforcement need to track down dangerous criminals, such as MS-13 gang members.” This merger likely requires congressional action. It also proposes to transfer the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program from the Office of National Drug Control Policy to OJP and reduce its funding from \$298.6 million to \$196 million.

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## **Senate Takes Up Reconciliation Bill**

President Trump’s budget was released as negotiations over the budget reconciliation bill in the Senate are at a critical stage. The budget reconciliation bill will set overall discretionary spending caps as well as changes to entitlement programs and tax policy for the next 10 years. The House bill, which passed by a margin of only one vote, looks unlikely to win Senate approval. Any extensive changes made by the Senate will have to return to the House for final approval. The House-passed bill recommended adding spending for immigration-related priorities, including:

- \$650 million to train state and local law enforcement agencies to perform certain immigration enforcement functions (the so-called 287(g) agreements);
- \$950 million to compensate states for incarcerating undocumented immigrants (prohibiting funds to sanctuary jurisdictions);
- \$787 million for state and local participation in homeland security efforts focused on combating criminal gangs and human trafficking, and
- Over \$60 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel, detention facilities and transportation and removal operations.

Finally, this year’s Dear Colleague and stakeholder groups letters registered very strong support for Byrne JAG and VOCA:

- The House [letter](#) in support of the Byrne JAG and the COPS Hiring programs was signed by 120 Members of the House, including 83 Democrats and 37 Republicans.
  - The Senate [letter](#) in support of Byrne JAG was signed by 40 senators, including 34 Democrats, 5 Republicans and 1 Independent.
  - The House [letter](#) in support of the VOCA program was signed by 83 Members, including 77 Democrats and 6 Republicans.
  - A Senate VOCA letter was also sent. We will post it along with the others on the NCJA website.
  - Almost 40 national stakeholder groups signed onto the NCJA-led annual sign-on [letter](#) in support of strong funding for Byrne JAG and implementation of the Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act. The organizations signing represent a broad cross-section of the criminal justice systems and impacted communities.
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## VOCA False Claims Bill Introduced in the Senate

Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) have reintroduced the *Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act* (CVFSA). The bill, [S. 1892](#), would stabilize the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) by making clear the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) can share in unspent balances deposited by entities convicted of violating the False Claims Act (FCA). A similar bill was introduced in both chambers last Congress.

The FCA is a federal law that allows the government to recover taxpayer dollars from entities that defraud federal agencies. The FCA authorizes the federal government to hold entities that knowingly defraud government agencies liable for up to three times the damages. Collected damages are repaid to the defrauded government agencies and any relevant whistleblower. Leftover funds are returned to the general fund of the Treasury. Current law allows, but does not require, appropriators to distribute any of the leftover funds to the CVF. The CVFSA would strengthen current law by redirecting the leftover, unobligated funds to the CVF temporarily through FY29. Like current VOCA receipts, False Claims Act receipts are not taxpayer money.

According to the House sponsors' fact sheet, over the past two fiscal years, settlements and judgments under the FCA have totaled over \$5.5 billion. Between FY2019 and FY2023, an average of \$340.73 million per year in unobligated funds has gone to the general fund because of the FCA.

The bill is sponsored in the Senate by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and co-sponsored by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Tommy Tuberville (R-AL), Patty Murray (D-WA), Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH). It was reintroduced in the House in February. The House bill, [H.R. 909](#), is sponsored by Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO) and co-sponsored by [168 Members](#) from both parties.

Read Senator Durbin's [press release](#) and Rep. Wagner's [press release](#) and [fact sheet](#).

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## Bills Pass in Both Chambers During Police Week

Last month, Washington, DC, hosted the annual National Police Week, an opportunity for thousands of law enforcement officers from across the country to come together to honor officers who died in the line of duty in the last year. It is tradition for the House and Senate to move a package of law enforcement-endorsed bills during the week.

The House passed three bills:

**H.R. 2240** – A bill that would require the Department of Justice to collect and report data on violent attacks against law enforcement officers, including government responses and gaps in reporting. The *Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act* is sponsored by Rep. Tim Moore (R-NC). The bill passed the House by a vote of **403-11**. Read more about the bill in the [April 4 Justice Bulletin](#). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**H.R. 2243** – A bill that would broaden the authority for certain law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms across state lines and other prohibited places, such as schools, national parks and other locations. The *LEOSA Reform Act* is sponsored by Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE). The bill passed the House by a vote of **229-193**. Read the sponsor's [press release](#) and section-by-section summary.

**H.R. 2255** – A bill that would allow current federal law enforcement officers in good standing to purchase a retired weapon at market value from a federal agency. The *Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act* is sponsored by Rep. Russell Fry (R-SC). The bill passed the House by a vote of **234-182**. Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved and sent eight bills to the floor. Among them are:

**S. 419** - A bill to expand mental health resources for law enforcement officers by helping to provide family support, mental health services and suicide prevention programs within law enforcement communities. The *Reauthorizing Support and Treatment for Officers in Crisis Act (STOIC Act)* is co-sponsored by Senators Josh Hawley (R-MO), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Chris Coons (D-DE), Peter Welch (D-VT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Dick Durbin (D-IL). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**S. 1563** – A bill seeking to solve law enforcement staffing shortages by providing local police departments access to retired federal, state and local officers to perform investigations and analysis, as well as training for the next generation of law enforcement. The *Retired Law Enforcement Officers Continuing Service Act* is co-sponsored by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Dick Durbin (D-IL). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**S. 1316** – A bill that would establish a federal grant program to support local law enforcement recruits who agree to attend school or an academy and then serve in their own communities. The *Strong Communities Act* is sponsored by

Senator Gary Peters (D-MI). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**S. 1595** – A bill that would establish quality standards for trauma kits purchased with Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program funds. The *Improving Police Critical Aid for Responding to Emergencies Act* or *Improving Police CARE Act* is sponsored by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**S. 539** – A bill that would reauthorize the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program to support state and local law enforcement agencies in combating child sexual exploitation and internet crimes against children. The *PROTECT Our Children Reauthorization Act* is cosponsored by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Dick Durbin (D-IL). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

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## New White Paper Describes Importance of the DOJ Grant Programs

NCJA, with the International Association of Chiefs of Police and All Rise, convened a conversation of national law enforcement, mental health and other system groups that led to the drafting of a white paper (authored by former Illinois SAA John Maki) that argues for the ongoing need for federal grants to improve the quality of state and local justice systems.

Noting that Department of Justice's (DOJ) grant programs "represent one of the nation's most enduring bipartisan achievements," the paper argues that the programs' "value lies not in promoting any single approach to public safety and crime prevention [but in enabling] state and local criminal justice leaders to fill critical gaps, implement proven practices, scale innovations, and enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system." The paper highlights examples of initiatives funded by State Administering Agencies and their subawardees to strengthen law enforcement, reduce violent crime, help victims, stem the tide of drug addiction and reduce recidivism.

NCJA encourages all SAAs, other members and the broader stakeholder community to consider using the white paper in their educational efforts.

Download and read [Making America Safe: Federal Justice Assistance Grants](#) and the [one-page executive summary](#).

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## Listen to Hearings and Read Witness Testimony

*NCJA is starting a new feature in the Government Affairs issue of the Justice Bulletin that links to the livestream and witness testimony for House and Senate hearings that may be relevant to NCJA members' work.*

A House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance hearing: [Federal Corrections in Focus: Oversight of the Bureau of Prisons](#). May 6, 2025.

A House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance hearing: [Criminalizing America: The Growth of Federal Offenses and Regulatory Overreach](#). May 7, 2025.

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## Newly Introduced Legislation

*NCJA has started a new feature in the Government Affairs issue of the Justice Bulletin on bills introduced in the House or Senate that may be of interest to NCJA members' work. If and when a bill develops enough support to go to sub/committee for mark-up – and/or has enough bipartisan support to win the approval of both chambers - we will provide more details.*

**H.R. 3552/S. 1843** – Bills to reauthorize the Second Chance Act and add emphasis on housing, career training and job placement, and substance use disorder and mental health treatment. The *Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2025* is sponsored in the House by Reps. Carol Miller (R-WV) and Danny Davis (D-IL) and 15 members from both parties. It is sponsored by Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) and 11 senators from both parties. Read the House sponsors' [press release](#) and the Senate sponsors' [press release](#).

**H.R. 3439** – A bill to prohibit a jurisdiction that defunds the police from receiving grants under certain Economic Development Assistance Programs and the Community Development Block Grant Program. The *Defund Cities that Defund the Police Act* is sponsored by Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**H.R. 3436** – A bill to authorize a Law Enforcement Education Grant program to encourage students to pursue a career in law enforcement. The *Law Enforcement Education Grant Program Act* is sponsored by Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

Rischbach (R-MN). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**H.R. 3458** – A bill that would allow COPS grant funds to be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities. The *Strong Communities Act of 2025* is sponsored by Rep. Nathaniel Moran (R-TX). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**S. 1752** – A bill to help law enforcement agencies attract and retain experienced officers by offering financial assistance for higher education to public safety officers who have served for at least eight years with a single employer and agree to serve an additional four years. The *Educational and Career Opportunities for Public Safety Act (EdCOPS Act)* is sponsored by Senators Mark Kelly (R-AZ) and Josh Hawley (R-MO). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**S. 725** – A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue a report after major natural disasters on the extent to which people were unable to reach 9-1-1 during the disaster and to update the classification of 9-1-1 dispatchers from clerical workers to protective service workers in the Standard Occupational Classification, a tool used by federal agencies to classify workers. The *Enhancing First Response Act* is sponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**H.R. 3312** – A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants for the creation and operation of veteran response teams within law enforcement agencies. The *Supporting Every at Risk Veteran In Critical Emergencies Act of 2025* is sponsored by Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL) and has six cosponsors from both parties. Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**S. 1652** - A bill to address gun violence, improve the availability of records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and address mental illness in the criminal justice system. The *Protecting Communities and Preserving the Second Amendment Act of 2025* is sponsored by Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA). Read the sponsor's [press release](#) and [section-by-section summary](#).

**S. 1611** – A bill to promote public service announcement campaigns targeted at youth substance use prevention. The *Youth Substance Use Prevention and Awareness Act* is sponsored by Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ). Read the sponsor's [press release](#).

**H.R. 3130** – A bill to establish education partnership programs between public schools and public health agencies to prevent the misuse and overdose of synthetic opioids by youth. The *Fentanyl Awareness for Children and Teens in Schools (FACTS) Act* is sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR). Read the sponsor's [press release](#) and [fact sheet](#).

**S. 1563** - A bill to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks. The bill is sponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN). It has passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and advanced to the floor. Read the sponsor's [press release](#)

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## News and Views

- Listen to a May 14 Senate Law Enforcement Caucus congressional staff [briefing](#) held as part of National Police Week that focused on key law enforcement training priorities.
- CNN [story](#) on the Supreme Court declining to hear arguments in a Second Amendment challenge to Maryland's ban on certain semi-automatic weapons and a challenge to Rhode Island's ban on high-capacity gun magazines. Both state laws are left in place.
- Crime and Justice News [article](#) and [analysis](#) by Jeff Asher with DH Analytics on trends in law enforcement agency staffing.
- A New York Times Magazine [article](#) that explores why more police officers die by suicide than in the line of duty.
- Axios [story](#) about Major Cities Chiefs Association [data](#) showing homicides in big cities continuing to decline in the first quarter of 2025.
- Marshall Project [article](#) on Bureau of Justice Statistics [data](#) about reproductive issues in state and federal prisons.
- Associated Press [article](#) on overdose deaths in the U.S. dropping 27 percent in the last year, the largest one-year decline ever.
- New York Times [article](#) on Biden and Trump Administration policies on marijuana legalization issues.

In Trump Administration-related news:

- The Department of Homeland Security posted a list of jurisdictions "obstructing the enforcement of federal immigration laws." The list was deleted after numerous jurisdictions and the National Sheriffs Association [questioned](#) the accuracy of the list. DHS created the list in response to President Trump's Executive Order 14287: [Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens](#).
- Council on Criminal Justice's [analysis](#) and further [findings](#) about the impact on justice programs and training and technical assistance from the termination of grants and subawards to 554 organizations in 48 states and territories. The report includes interactive tables and a narrative about the programs terminated.

- **Lawsuit** filed by the Vera Institute of Justice and four other organizations whose community-based violence intervention and hate crimes-funded grants were terminated by the Department of Justice.
- Federal Bureau of Prisons **memo** directing staff to expand the use of home confinement for eligible individuals under the *First Step Act* and *Second Chance Act*.
- The COPS Office **notices** of funding opportunities (NOFO) for 13 discretionary grant programs.
- Bloomberg Law **article** on the Ninth Circuit's **decision** to uphold a freeze on the Administration's attempt to fire federal workers while the court case continues.
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's 2025 National Drug Threat **Assessment**, which provides a comprehensive review of the threats posed to the U.S. by illicit drugs and international drug trafficking organizations.
- Roll Call **article** on two lawsuits filed by a coalition of 20 Democratic Attorneys General against the Trump administration's policies to withhold grants for transportation and homeland security in jurisdictions that do not cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. View the transportation-related **lawsuit** and the homeland security-related **lawsuit**.
- Reuters **article** on U.S. District Court Judge William Orrick **warning** the Administration that it cannot use a new Executive Order, **Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens**, which calls for withholding funds from sanctuary jurisdictions, as the basis for non-compliance with an **earlier injunction** that barred the Administration from withholding the federal funds.
- New York Times **article** on U.S. District Court Judge Mary McElroy extending indefinitely an earlier temporary ruling prohibiting the Department of Health and Human Services from terminating \$11 billion in state public health grants.
- Government Executive **article** on U.S. District Judge Susan Illston's order blocking President Trump from firing certain federal employees and eliminating certain agencies for at least 14 days. The **order** said that while a president has broad power to reorganize government agencies and lay off staff, the Administration must follow legal and procedural requirements.
- Reuters **article** about U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper granting the American Bar Association's (ABA) request for a preliminary injunction to stop the Department of Justice from terminating its training grants. The ABA had **sued** the Justice Department in April, claiming its grants were illegally terminated in retaliation for their public criticism of the Trump Administration.
- **Analysis** by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities on how the Administration's actions are impacting the various stages of the federal grantmaking process.
- **Speech** by the head of the Department of Justice Criminal Division outlining the Administration's priorities and shifting strategies for enforcing white collar crime (which could impact the Crime Victims Fund balance in the future).

National Criminal Justice Association | 700 K St., N.W. | Washington, D.C. 20001  
Tel: (202) 628-8550 | [info@ncja.org](mailto:info@ncja.org)

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National Criminal Justice Association | 700 K St. N.W. | Washington, DC 20001 US

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