

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 14, 2010

The Honorable Alan Mollohan  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-309 Capitol

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Wolf:

As you begin deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2011 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill, we urge you to fund the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) at its fully authorized level of \$950 million.

As you know, SCAAP is a program which reimburses states for the costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens. Under the law that created SCAAP, the federal government is required to take all criminal aliens into federal custody. If that is not possible, which has been the case since the program was created, the law calls for the federal government to compensate state and local governments for their incarceration costs.

With your leadership, the FY2010 CJS bill provided \$330 million for SCAAP. In his FY2011 budget request, President Obama proposed level funding for this program, a welcome change from previous budget requests that sought to zero out SCAAP, but the FY2010 amount still falls short of what our states and counties need. We are committed to fully funding SCAAP and urge you to include the authorized amount of \$950 million for this program in the FY2011 CJS bill.

We cannot afford to flat fund or reduce this vital program, which already falls far short of what states and local governments actually spend to incarcerate undocumented criminal aliens. Without sufficient SCAAP funding, state and local governments must shoulder the burden, resulting in cuts to many of our local law enforcement agencies including sheriffs, police officers, anti-gang violence units, and district attorney offices.

By law, it is the responsibility of the federal government to provide funding for SCAAP. We urge you to fully fund SCAAP, and appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

  
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