



# Major County Sheriffs of America

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June 9, 2017

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
House Homeland Security Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul,

As Vice Presidents of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) in charge of Homeland Security and Government Affairs, we write to thank you for your leadership and support of local law enforcement through the FY18 grant authorizations found within Title VI of H.R. 2825, the *Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017*.

MCSA is an association of elected Sheriffs representing the nation's largest counties with populations of 500,000 people or more. Collectively, we provide public safety services to over 100 million residents and have a unique understanding of the national security challenges facing our nation.

Since September 11, 2001, our country has made great progress in our nation's ability to prepare for, respond to and prevent terrorist attacks; however, in an era of deep budget cuts and reduced federal funding, state and local law enforcement do not have sufficient funds by themselves to support the homeland security mission.

Federal funding such as the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) which includes the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) and the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) work to address gaps in local agency capabilities for responding to terrorist threats in the homeland. Authorizing UASI at \$800 million and SHSP at \$600 million is critical to our efforts. Local capabilities that have been built in part through UASI and SHSP funds are not self-sustaining and require consistent federal support to maintain a level of vigilance against threats. This requires an active, and invested level of collaboration with our partner agencies to maintain a level of preparedness that our citizens deserve and expect.

There also remains a strong need for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) requirement that is in current law. Under this provision, 25% of all UASI and SHSP funds that are received by a state must be used for LETPA. If this requirement was removed, there would be zero dedicated federal support for terrorism prevention activities, which is a unique role of law enforcement. Based on what we have recently seen all over the world, now is not the time to step away from this critical activity. On a related note, there should be much more formal local law

enforcement input into FEMA's grant guidance and prioritization processes to ensure transparency in the policy directives, grant guidance, and risk formulas.

We greatly appreciate your leadership and we thank you and Committee staff for working honestly and collaboratively with the MCSA. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance as we continue our work to protect the homeland.

Very Respectfully,



Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard  
Oakland County (MI)  
MCSA VP – Government Affairs



Sheriff Richard Stanek  
Hennepin County (MN)  
MCSA VP – Homeland Security