

## MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties  
From: Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)  
RE: **Analysis of U.S. House Budget on Law Enforcement**  
Date: March 30, 2012

On Thursday, March 29, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a budget for the upcoming year on a largely party line vote. The plan, known as the “Ryan Budget,” sharply reduces the federal government’s investments in education and infrastructure – investments that are necessary to ensure our country remains competitive in the global economy and generates jobs in both the short and long term. It makes huge reductions in spending that are largely offset by completely extending the Bush 2001 and 2003 tax breaks, which were targeted towards the very wealthy. This budget proposal is an unprecedented assault on middle class Americans who are already struggling to make ends meet.

In targeting programs that help our middle class communities, last year, the House of Representatives even sought to devastate law enforcement programs that help to keep our neighborhoods safe, like the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne JAG) and Community Oriented Policing Program (COPS). They tried to cut about \$250 million from state and local law enforcement and completely eliminate COPS. I fought hard to ensure the federal government continued to support our sheriffs and police officers. Although the Byrne JAG program funding was cut from \$512 million to \$350 million, we were able to fight off deeper cuts.

Not satisfied with last year’s devastating cuts, the House Republicans yet again passed a budget that will require deep cuts to important local law enforcement programs. According to the Office of Management and Budget, **the House Budget Resolution would result in a 5.4 percent reduction in funding for Fiscal Year 2013, eliminating \$118 million from all state and local law enforcement, and most significantly impacting Byrne JAG and COPS, two programs critical to keeping Iowa’s communities safe and drug free. The programs would be reduced by 19 percent in Fiscal Year 2014.** Should this measure come before the Senate, I will not support it.

Last year, over \$3.4 million in Byrne grants came to Iowa, supporting jobs for nearly 80 Iowans who are directly responsible for making our state safer. In fact, Byrne funded drug task forces in Iowa:

- Were responsible for 1,900 felony arrests;
- Dismantled 84 gangs;
- Seized over 745 illegal firearms; and
- Seized nearly 60 kilograms of illicit drugs, including heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine.

Future success will be not be possible if the House budget is enacted. For Byrne JAG, approximately \$188,000 less will come to Iowa in Fiscal Year 2013, and over \$661,000 less in Fiscal Year 2014.

Likewise, COPS hiring grants have funded over 770 police officers and sheriff deputies in Iowa, and last year alone funded 6 new police officers on Iowa’s streets. About \$1.3 million came to Iowa last year. The House budget proposal would cut about \$74,000 from that in Fiscal Year 2013 and over \$260,000 in Fiscal Year 2014, and lead to fewer police on our streets.

During an economic recovery, crime does not stop and we should not abandon our responsibility to keep our communities safe. Cuts to law enforcement will make our streets less safe and our nation less secure.

Last year, I fought hard to keep the dangerous cuts to these programs from being enacted and I intend to do the same as we consider this year's budget proposals.