

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
115 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member Durbin, and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As you work to reconcile the differences between the House version (H.R. 6157) and Senate version (S. 3159) of the *Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2019*, we respectfully request that you provide robust funding for the National Guard counter-drug program, which was funded at \$236,353,000 in Fiscal Year 2018.

As you are aware, S. 3159 provides \$217,178,000 for the National Guard counter-drug program. H.R. 6157, as reported by the House Appropriations Committee, provided \$197,353,000 for the program. We filed a bipartisan amendment (#56) to increase funding by \$3.0 million, to \$200,353,000. The amendment was ruled in order by the Rules Committee and adopted by the House by voice vote on June 27, 2018.

We believe the National Guard counter-drug program is important, is effective, and should continue to receive robust funding. This is especially true in light of the opioid epidemic that is harming so many communities throughout the country. Under the program, the National Guard Bureau distributes the money it receives from Congress to the national guards in the states and the territories, using a funding allocation model that examines the nature and scope of the drug problem in each jurisdiction.

With this funding, national guards provide many different forms of assistance to law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations, including analytical, reconnaissance, and training

support. This program is targeted and tailored: each state uses its funding in a way that reflects the drug interdiction priorities of its governor; the capabilities of its national guard; and the needs of its law enforcement partners at the federal, state, and local levels.

We hope you will fund the National Guard counter-drug program as close to the FY 2018 enacted level of \$236,353,000 as feasible, and no less than the \$200,353,000 level provided in H.R. 6157.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress