

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20530-0009

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

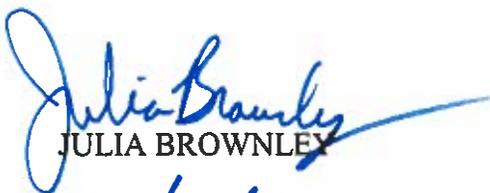
We write to express our concerns about the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) December 21, 2015 announcement suspending equitable sharing with local law enforcement agencies under the Asset Forfeiture Program.

As you know, local law enforcement agencies across the country rely on funds received through the equitable sharing program to augment local funds and to fight gang and drug violence that negatively impact our local communities. According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the DOJ decision will be “detrimental to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.”

While we recognize that reforms are needed to prevent abuse of federal asset forfeiture laws and that the recent rescissions have impacted the program, DOJ’s decision to eliminate funds to local law enforcement will harm our local communities. Furthermore, when the law is appropriately applied, local law enforcement agencies that expend resources aiding federal law enforcement officials should receive appropriate reimbursement through the program. As such, we urge DOJ to resume the equitable sharing program so that local law enforcement agencies struggling with budget challenges will have additional resources to apprehend criminals and prevent gang and drug violence in our communities.

We look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,



JULIA BROWNLEY



NIKI TSONGAS



FILEMON VELA



HENRY CUELLAR



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY



CHRIS COLLINS



RICK LARSEN



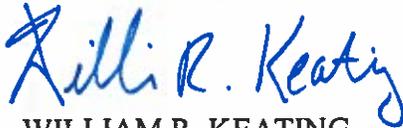
DAVID W. JOLLY



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