



May 22, 2023

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Cartwright, Chairwoman Shaheen, and Ranking Member Moran:

I am writing today to ask you to strongly support the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) in FY 2024. The Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) are deeply concerned and disappointed the President seeks to terminate SCAAP in his FY 2024 budget. Sheriffs cannot absorb the financial burden this creates, and the taxpayers of our counties cannot bear the fiscal responsibility of incarcerating criminal aliens when the reason these offenders are in the local jail stems directly from a breakdown of federal enforcement and policy. We urge you not to follow this path outlined in the FY 2024 budget and instead increase SCAAP funding above the \$234 million that was provided last year.

SCAAP is especially important to the nation's sheriffs because it reimburses local governments for incarceration costs incurred as a direct result of the federal government's failure to secure the border. Simply put, SCAAP helps defray some of the costs associated with holding criminal illegal immigrants in the local jail when they could otherwise be held in a federal correctional facility.

Additionally, offsetting the costs sheriffs incur for the incarceration of criminal aliens keeps the financial obligation where it should be—with the federal government. Given the state of illegal immigration in the country, local law enforcement budgets are already stretched to the breaking point, and defunding SCAAP will make our communities less safe as we will be forced to divert scarce local enforcement resources into corrections. Until the federal government secures the nation's border, significant financial challenges will continue for law enforcement at all levels. SCAAP helps to offset the cost burden on local jails, and it should continue at an increased level.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and MCSA looks forward to working with you to support SCAAP. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to call on me or the MCSA government relations team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan Noland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Noland

Executive Director

Major County Sheriffs of America