

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 9, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen and Vice Chairwoman:

As you continue your work on the Subcommittee's Fiscal Year 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request that you include \$100 million in funding under the Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program for security costs associated with the 2016 Democratic and Republican National Conventions being hosted by the cities of Philadelphia and Cleveland. The funding, similar in nature to amounts provided for past conventions, would be divided equally between the two cities and is necessary to ensure that state and local law enforcement have access to the manpower and equipment needed to guarantee safe and successful conventions.

As you may know, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has designated the Republican and Democratic 2016 national conventions as "National Special Security Events." While security for such events is coordinated by the United States Secret Service, they have no authority to provide state and local law enforcement with supplemental funding for security operations. Accordingly, this additional funding is critical to the host cities' efforts to obtain the extra law enforcement personnel necessary to ensure a safe and secure environment.

Philadelphia and Cleveland are honored to have been selected as the hosts of the 2016 presidential nomination conventions. The presidential nomination conventions are large-scale, complex, and high-profile events that can pose significant security challenges. Local law enforcement plays a critical role in planning and preparing for the security of the conventions and also carries out the majority of security operations at the event itself. Moreover, effective security requires a coordinated effort by numerous federal, state, regional and local law enforcement agencies. These extraordinary measures to ensure a safe and secure environment

exceed annual city resources. For this reason, Congress has appropriated funds for every convention since the September 11th terrorist attacks to meet the increased security challenges.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you during the FY 2016 appropriations cycle to ensure the safety and security of convention participants, volunteers, spectators, and residents of Philadelphia and Cleveland. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly or have your staff contact Jack Groarke in Senator Casey's Office at 224-2844 or Kia Hamadanchy in Senator Brown's Office at 228-3940.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator