



## Board of County Commissioners Multnomah County

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600  
Portland, Oregon 97214

March 17, 2016

Senator Jeff Merkley  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners supports FY 2017 appropriations for three committee priorities: the Byrne JAG program, the Second Chance Act, and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA).

Byrne JAG is the cornerstone federal crime-fighting program, supporting the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation, as well as testing and replicating evidence-based practices nationwide. Counties use Byrne JAG to test emerging and evidence-based approaches to the public safety challenges in their jurisdictions. Because Byrne JAG is flexible, counties are able to use funding to address needs and fill gaps across the entire criminal justice system – in prevention, enforcement, courts, prosecution and defense, corrections, victim assistance, and other community support.

The Second Chance Act provides resources to states, local governments and nonprofit organizations to improve outcomes for individuals returning to communities from correctional facilities. These individuals return to their communities with complex health, housing, employment and other needs, and the Second Chance Act helps counties in their efforts to facilitate successful reentry.

MIOTCRA funds are used by counties to develop and implement a variety of programs designed to improve outcomes for individuals with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners thanks you for your work on behalf of Oregon. If we can assist you in your advocacy for these appropriations, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners, Multnomah County

cc: Senator Ron Wyden