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FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES · IDAHO STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES · ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA COUNTIES
IOWA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES · MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES · NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS · NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION OF OHIO · ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA · SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES · UTAH ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

May 1, 2008

The Honorable David Obey, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-218 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan, Chairman
CJS Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-310 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member
CJS Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Obey, Lewis, Mollohan and Frelinghuysen:

On behalf of the undersigned county government associations, we are writing to you in strong support of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). As Congress moves forward with the fiscal year 2009 appropriations process, we strongly urge you to fund SCAAP at the authorized level of \$950 million.


As you know, the SCAAP program provides partial reimbursement to states and localities for the costs associated with the detention and incarceration of undocumented criminal immigrants. Although it is the federal government's responsibility to protect and secure our nation's borders, counties incur millions of dollars in unreimbursed expenses each year as a result of housing undocumented immigrants that violate state or local laws. Additionally, it should be noted that counties are responsible for processing and prosecuting illegal immigrant offenders, and, in many cases, must provide medical care and other services to these individuals.

The counties represented by our state associations bear a disproportionate share of the criminal justice-related costs associated with illegal immigration. As a result of having to house pre-trial and convicted illegal immigrant offenders, our counties are forced to divert funds from other important local programs in areas such as healthcare, social services, and even other key public safety-related programs.

We are concerned that while SCAAP-related costs to local jurisdictions have been rising, the level of reimbursement provided by the federal government remains grossly inadequate. In fact, and by way of illustration, the program's funding is approximately \$175 million less than what it was back in fiscal year 1998. Moreover, SCAAP's current funding level of \$410 million falls far short of providing full reimbursement for the actual costs incurred by eligible jurisdictions nationwide.

Again, we strongly urge you to fund the SCAAP program at \$950 million in fiscal year 2009 in order to more adequately reimburse cash-strapped local governments for their costs associated with housing criminal illegal immigrants. Thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.

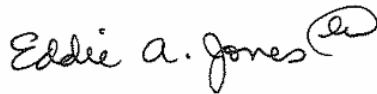
Sincerely,



Paul McIntosh
Executive Director
California State Association of Counties



Nicole Stickler
Executive Director
Arizona Association of Counties



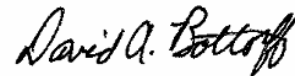
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Chair
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Commissioners



Jeff Fontaine
Executive Director
Nevada Association of Counties



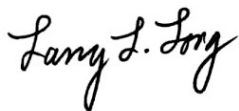
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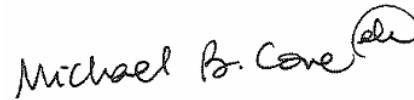


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