



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

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December 6, 2021

To:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

Law Enforcement Supports Community-Based Violence Intervention  
Funding

Distinguished U.S. Senators and Representatives,

Having spent our careers serving this great country as police, prosecutors, and corrections officials, we have witnessed the damage done by our gun violence epidemic. We feel a duty to speak out in support of interventions that can stem the tide of this violence. We are encouraged to see that the Build Back Better Act would allocate \$5 billion to community-based violence intervention programs. This investment would provide valuable new tools to assist law enforcement in stemming the recent rise of violence across our nation.

We have seen gun violence destroy families and neighborhoods firsthand. Each year, the U.S. suffers around 120,000 non-fatal firearm injuries.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the casualties, this violence creates lifelong physical and mental health impairments, fractured families, and an estimated \$280 billion in costs annually.<sup>2</sup>

Any police officer can tell you that violence is extremely concentrated. In any city, a small percentage of streets see the vast majority of homicides,<sup>3</sup> and a tiny percentage of individuals are repeat perpetrators and victims of shootings.<sup>4</sup>

As law enforcement, we often know who these individuals are in our communities. However, when shootings occur, we often do not have the evidence necessary to prosecute the perpetrators. We are caught trying to

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react after the fact, and we are not able to do enough to prevent future shootings.

In recent years, cities around the country have learned to intervene preventively with the small group of individuals caught in the cycle of violence through community-based violence intervention programs. Instead of being confined to making threats, conducting surveillance, and waiting until another act of violence occurs, these cities are directly intervening in changing the life path of these young people. Interventions with the highest-risk individuals in Richmond, California helped reduce homicides by more than 50 percent for ten years.<sup>5</sup> Outreach programs in New York City are associated with up to 60% reductions in violence in targeted neighborhoods.<sup>6</sup> In Baltimore and other cities, Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs have reduced clients' subsequent risk of shooting by more than 60 percent.<sup>7</sup> In Oakland, a partnership of community members, social service providers, and law enforcement helped reduce shootings by 50% over five years.<sup>8</sup> In Newark, the Newark Community Street Team helped decrease violence by double digits.<sup>9</sup>

As individuals from across the political spectrum, we are united in our belief that investing \$5 billion in these programs nationwide would produce a significant and lasting public safety benefit to our nation. By empowering community members to help law enforcement shoulder the burden of public safety, this new approach would also increase community trust in and collaboration with law enforcement.

We urge Congress to ensure that the \$5 billion investment in community violence intervention programs, which the current Administration called for in the American Jobs Plan, is included and passed in the final Build Back Better reconciliation package.

In recent days, the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Judiciary Committee each passed budget resolution legislation containing \$2.5 billion in funding for community violence intervention. Now, Congressional leaders should ensure that this collective \$5 billion passes both chambers of Congress.

As law enforcement from across the nation, we all agree that stopping violence is one of our greatest needs as a society. We urge you to make this critical investment to add to our public safety toolbelt and do everything we can to protect our communities from violence. Thank you for your attention to this crucial issue.

Respectfully,

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## Endnotes

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