May 16, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Nadler, and Ranking Member Jordan:

During National Police Week, communities and leaders across the country reflect on the contributions of police officers’ public service to their communities, and the sacrifices they have made to keep our communities safe. We write to request the House bring bipartisan legislation to the floor for a vote as soon as possible to invest in local police departments to promote safe communities and strengthen relationships between our officers and the communities they serve. Police departments cannot effectively answer the immense and diverse needs of their communities without sufficient funding. Therefore, we must urgently vote to increase funding for local departments and strengthen federal efforts on community-oriented policing.

As national crime rates increase, the substance abuse disorder crisis worsens, and mental health challenges rise, police departments have become the default members of our community tasked with addressing these complex challenges. All Americans benefit when our communities’ police officers are sufficiently trained, qualified, and have the resources they need to do their jobs effectively. Many police departments rely on federal assistance through the COPS Program to make sure their officers are well-trained, receive competitive pay, and stay on the force. Congress has recognized the crucial role of the COPS Program as a lifeline to many departments by increasing its funding over the last few years, but we must do more.

As such, we urge Congressional leadership to bring the bipartisan COPS on the Beat Grant Program Reauthorization and Parity Act of 2022 (H.R. 6375) to the floor for consideration and a vote as soon as possible. This bill would help increase police officer pay and to assist local police departments with the hiring of additional officers, particularly for rural and under-resourced police departments. This legislation was developed in direct response to the needs of national, state, and local law enforcement stakeholders and labor unions, and is endorsed by several of these entities including the National Fraternal Order of Police, International
Association of Chiefs of Police, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs Association, National Association of Police Organizations, National Sheriffs Association, and Sergeants Benevolent Association. The bill also has strong bipartisan support among our congressional colleagues.

We cannot continue to merely talk about the need for improving law enforcement relations, budgets, and trainings - we must deliver on those calls with thoughtful and targeted solutions, such as the bipartisan COPS on the Beat Grant Program Reauthorization and Parity Act of 2022 (H.R. 6375). The U.S. House of Representatives must affirm our commitment to safe communities and common-sense solutions to nationwide challenges with action on this bipartisan bill. Thank you for your attention to this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

CC: House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
House Majority Whip James Clyburn
House Minority Whip Steve Scalise