



Public Safety

The annual Federal Bureau of Investigation Unified Crime Report showed violent crime increased 2.3 percent in 2005 and rose again 1.3 percent in 2006. This marks the first two-year increase in violent crime in 15 years. Some cities experienced double-digit or even triple-digit percentage increases in homicides and other violence during this time. Despite these disturbing trends, federal funds for innovative local crime prevention programs continue to be targeted for budget cuts; even this year's budget calls for slashing \$1 billion in crime prevention and enforcement programs.

Message to Congress

- *Crime is not just a state and local matter.* Federal resources promote intergovernmental coordination that leads to improved criminal justice practices and reduced crime and recidivism.
- *Failure to fund federal crime prevention and law enforcement programs* will harm the capabilities of law enforcement agencies nationwide and may ultimately lead to more crime and violence in our hometowns and less security for our homeland.
- *The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program* provides federal resources to support local government crime fighting efforts by funding programs to implement community policing initiatives and deploy modern cutting-edge crime-fighting technologies and strategies.
- *The COPS program has been effective in reducing crime and generating benefits to society.* The COPS program has contributed to declines in crime rates and for each \$1.4 billion invested in the program, society generates between \$6 and \$12 billion in benefits.
- *The Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program* provides federal resources to support local and state government crime fighting efforts by funding a broad range of law-enforcement programs, from drug and gang task forces, to programs that assist victims of crime, including children.
- *The Byrne JAG program is a critical, effective, and proven tool* in state and local law enforcement efforts to rid their communities of illegal drugs. A recent study found that one state's task forces funded in part by JAG in 2004 were responsible for the seizure of thousands of kilograms of illegal drugs and for serving over 134,000 juveniles through crime prevention projects.

Request to Congress

- **Restore and protect funding** for proven public safety programs, including the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, and other State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Programs, that are essential resources for preventing crime.