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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515-6015

April 25, 2025

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The Honorable Pam Bondi Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

I write to express my strong opposition to your department's abrupt termination of hundreds of grants previously awarded by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). These grants have been essential in supporting a wide range of community-based initiatives across the country from local law enforcement agencies and hospitals to faith-based organizations and youth programs. They have served at-risk youth and victims of crime, led violence prevention efforts, responded to increases in hate crimes, and helped people struggling with substance use.

These programs are not <u>"wasteful"</u> spending, as you have claimed. They play a critical role in leading violence prevention and intervention efforts; serving at-risk youth and victims of crimes, coordinating responses to rising hate crimes; and assisting individuals struggling with substance use disorders. These programs save lives.

You stated the priority of your department is "law and order in America." But law and order cannot exist if victims of crime are unable to recover, or if law enforcement does not have the resources to more effectively fight crime and restore relationships with the community members they serve, or if non-violent offenders cannot find a pathway to reentry into society.

It must be emphasized that these grant recipients were previously awarded this funding following open and competitive application processes implemented by OJP. I urge you to immediately restore this funding for these organizations. Lives and communities depend on it.

Sincerely,

Grace Meng

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,

Science, and Related Agencies