



June 4, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Meng,
and Members of the House Committee on Appropriations:

We write on behalf of the undersigned organizations representing local, state, and federal law enforcement to express our strong opposition to an amendment offered by Representative Espallat and adopted during House Appropriations Committee consideration of the Fiscal Year 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations Act. The amendment would prohibit law enforcement agencies from purchasing certain commercially available information that is frequently used to generate investigative leads, identify threats, and locate victims during criminal investigations. These restrictions would have significant

consequences for public safety and criminal investigations nationwide, and we respectfully urge Congress to ensure the amendment is not included in the final FY 2027 CJS appropriations measure. The proposal was advanced without meaningful consultation with the law enforcement agencies that would be directly affected by these changes and responsible for implementing them.

Lawfully available commercial information plays an important role in modern law enforcement operations. These resources are often most valuable during the earliest stages of an investigation, when investigators are working to identify credible leads, assess potential threats, locate victims, and prevent additional harm. They support investigations involving violent crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, child exploitation, terrorism, threats of mass violence, and other serious offenses. In many cases, they help investigators develop the information necessary to pursue warrants, subpoenas, and other legal process. Restricting access to these tools would create significant operational challenges for agencies across the country and hinder their ability to identify critical leads when time is of the essence.

We recognize the importance of protecting Americans' privacy and civil liberties and remain committed to working constructively with Congress to address legitimate privacy concerns. However, proposals with potentially far-reaching consequences for criminal investigations and public safety operations should not be included in appropriations legislation without meaningful engagement with the law enforcement community and a full understanding of their operational impact.

We respectfully urge Congress to ensure this amendment is not included in the final Fiscal Year 2027 CJS appropriations measure. We stand ready to work with you to identify balanced solutions that protect Americans' privacy and civil liberties while preserving law enforcement's ability to identify threats, locate victims, investigate serious crimes, and protect public safety.

Sincerely,

Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA)
National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)
National Fusion Center Association (NFCA)
National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Directors Association (NHDA)
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)
National Real Time Crime Center Association (NRTCCA)
National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD (SBA)