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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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COMMITTEES:
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The Honorable Jeff Sessions
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

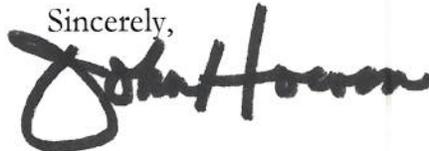
As you know, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) is an essential funding component for law enforcement personnel across the country. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Department of Justice's (DOJ) delay in the disbursement of Byrne JAG funds for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 17), and to urge your Department to release these funds as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Byrne JAG serves as the main source of funds for many important criminal justice programs administered at the state, local and tribal levels. These include crime prevention and education, drug treatment and enforcement, technology improvement, mental health services, counterterrorism, border security, domestic violence programs, and more. These programs represent important initiatives that many communities would struggle to undertake without the federal assistance made available through Byrne JAG.

Byrne JAG funds allow states, tribes and local governments to obtain additional equipment and supplies, enhance training, and provide additional support for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals. For FY 17, \$174.4 million is available for disbursement, with \$467,690 allocated for North Dakota. However, these funds have still not been distributed by DOJ. I share the concerns of my constituents who rely on these vital Byrne JAG funds, and I request that your Department urgently make these funds available to communities in North Dakota and nationwide.

Thank you for your ongoing service to our nation. I appreciate your attention to this important issue that directly impacts the safety of people, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator