

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Shaheen:

We write to thank you for your continued support of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program, and to urge you to include full funding for RISS in the Fiscal Year 2019 CJS Appropriations Bill. Additionally, we request that the subcommittee consider supporting the placement of a cap on the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Maintenance and Administrative Fees. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

As you know, the RISS program allows law enforcement agencies across the country to successfully resolve criminal investigations, apprehend and prosecute offenders, and ensure officer and public safety. Agencies from across the country rely on RISS for information and intelligence sharing, officer safety event deconfliction, and investigative support services. The RISS program serves almost 9,000 state, local, tribal, and federal agencies, including many smaller law enforcement agencies. Through RISS, these agencies receive services and resources that otherwise would not be available to them. RISS also plays an important role in federal information sharing initiatives.

RISS is an innovative, cost-effective, and evidence-based program that provides an excellent return on investment for our nation. From 2005 to 2015, officers leveraging RISS's services arrested almost 44,000 offenders and seized more than \$600 million in narcotics, property, and currency. Millions of intelligence and investigative records are available through RISS's Secure Cloud (RISSNET). In addition, through the RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction Systems (RISSafe), more than 397,000 undercover operations, buy-busts, and other law enforcement events have been identified as possible conflicts, thus avoiding potential blue-on-blue tragedies. Without RISS's services and resources, many more criminals, drugs, stolen property and other contraband would still be on our streets. RISS supports and partners with many federal agencies, such as the National Data Exchange, the Office of the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment, the Homeland Security Information Network, the United States Secret

Service's Targeted Violence Information Sharing System, the Medicaid Fraud Control Units, and the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System. Each day, agencies seek RISS's support because of its proven, trusted, and solutions-based approach, and law enforcement officers use RISS to help solve cases and stay safe.

In FY 2011, RISS received \$45 million, while in 2016 the program received \$35 million. Reductions in RISS funding have had an effect on law enforcement operations, although we are thankful that the Appropriations Committees have mitigated the potential damage by funding the program at a level higher than that requested in the President's budget for each year from 2011 through 2016. Further, Maintenance and Administrative Fees continue to increase, which reduces the amount of funds RISS receives each fiscal year. In FY2012, the percentage of funds retained by the DOJ was 2.96%. Since then, the percentage has increased to 10.27% by FY2015 and 9.67% in FY2017. Setting a reasonable cap on Maintenance and Administrative Fees will ensure that optimal funding is available to RISS each fiscal year.

We appreciate your leadership on this and other law enforcement issues, and urge your continued support for RISS in Fiscal Year 2019. If you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact us or have your staff contact Lara Quint with Senator Whitehouse at (202) 224-2921 or Caitlan Flis with Senator Hoeven at (202) 224-2551.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
United States Senator



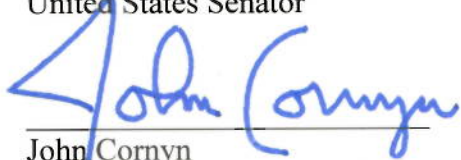
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



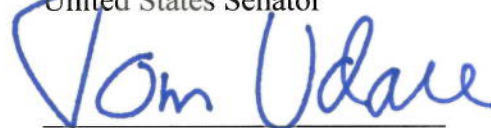
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



James Inhofe
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



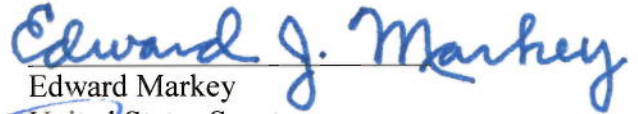
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



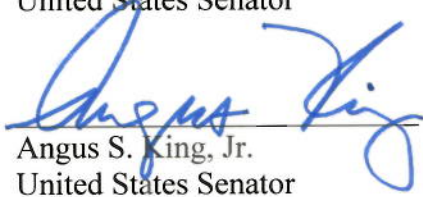
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



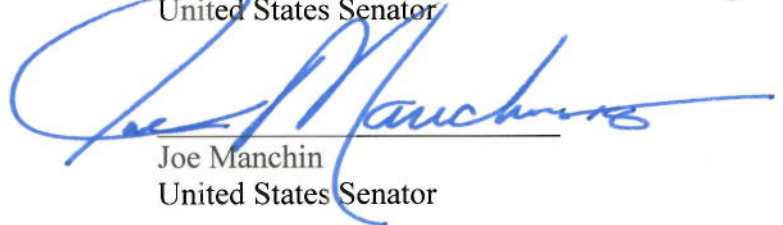
Todd Young
United States Senator



Edward Markey
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



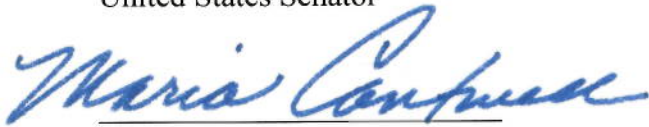
Joe Manchin
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



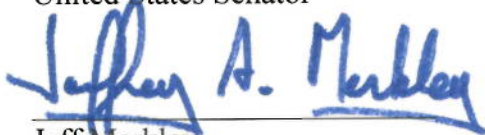
Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



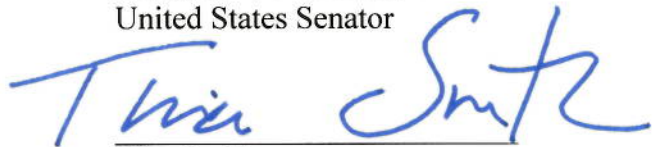
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



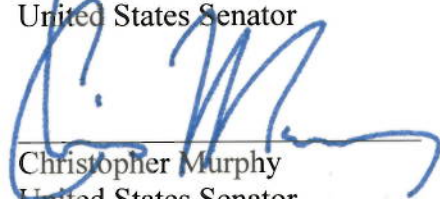
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



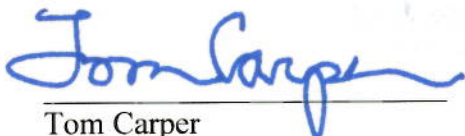
Tina Smith
United States Senator



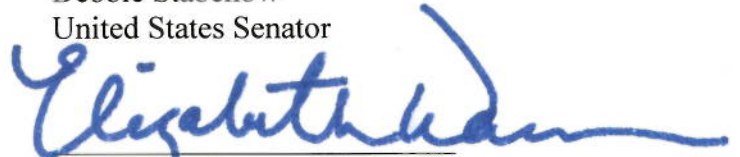
Christopher Murphy
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



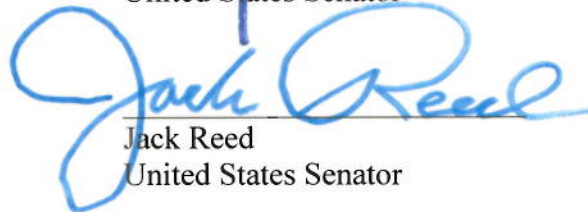
Tom Carper
United States Senator



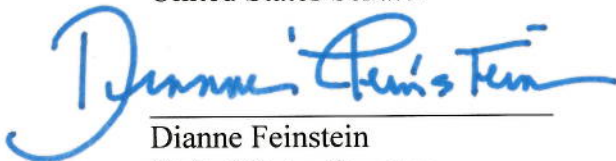
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



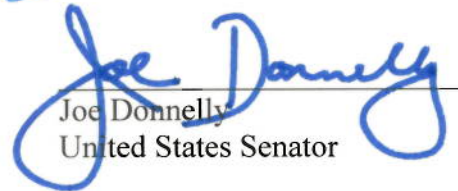
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



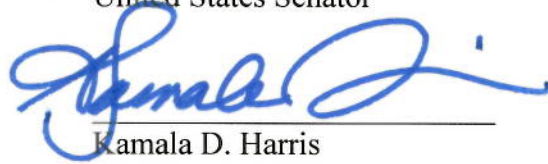
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



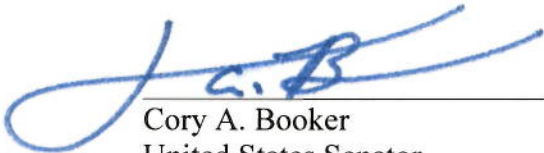
Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator