

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 201510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee of Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 201510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairwoman Mikulski:

America's Drug Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts have successfully reduced crime, saved billions of tax dollars, and transformed the lives of more than 1.25 million citizens and veterans. As you consider Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations, we ask for your support to ensure that continued funding is appropriated for Drug Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts at the Department of Justice.

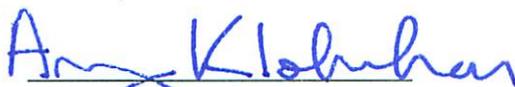
The Drug Court system – which requires nonviolent, drug-addicted offenders to remain in treatment and undergo random drug testing while under intensive judicial supervision – has been cited as the nation's most fiscally responsible method for dealing with substance-abusing offenders. In fact, the most comprehensive study on Drug Courts to date (the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice's National Multi-Site Adult Drug Court Evaluation) concluded that Drug Courts provide an average cost savings of \$6,000 per participant.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported in 2011 that Drug Courts reduce crime by up to 58 percent. Research also shows that about 60 percent of Drug Court participants complete at least 12 months of treatment, as compared with only 10 percent of probationers and parolees.

Veterans Treatment Courts effectively assist former soldiers who suffer from serious mental health issues and substance abuse or dependency issues. These innovative courts provide veterans whose contact with the criminal justice system results from these issues a chance to complete treatment and get their lives back on track.

We hope that you support the work of Drug Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts in the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations process. Thank you in advance for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

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Tom Udall
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
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Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

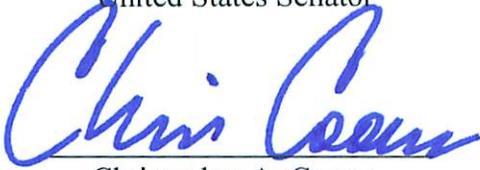
Patrick J. Leahy
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Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Gary Peters
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



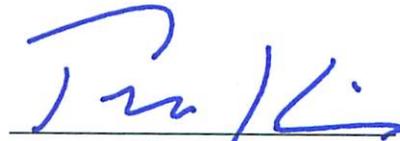
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



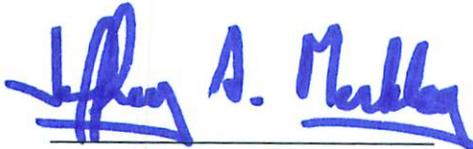
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



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