December 11, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey:

Thank you for your leadership this past year in advancing the FY2019 appropriations process and for remediating FY19 sequestration to provide additional funding. The undersigned organizations urge Congress to finalize and pass FY19 appropriations for the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill before it adjourns in December so that these additional funds are allocated and Congress’ funding decisions and direction for key public safety and criminal justice reform programs can be realized.

Our diverse coalition of stakeholder organizations, representing law enforcement, judges, state and local officials, service providers, and individuals directly impacted by the justice system, urge Congress to finalize the FY19 appropriations process now so that we are able to inform stakeholders and state and local communities about the FY19 funds available by the end of this year. Such finality on funding issues enhances both the planning and execution of key elements of the criminal justice system, thus improving public safety and the effectiveness of justice system services and outcomes.

Thank you so much for your leadership on these critical issues. We look forward to working with you as the process moves forward in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance
American Correctional Association
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)
Pace Center for Girls
Pretrial Justice Institute
Safer Foundation
School Social Work Association of America
SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics
Stop Child Predators
StoptheDrugWar.org
The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
The American Probation and Parole Association
The Sentencing Project
The U.S. Conference of Mayors
Treatment Communities of America
W. Haywood Burns Institute

Cc: Chairman Jerry Moran
    Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen
    Chairman John Culberson
    Ranking Member Jose Serrano