Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301
March 22, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Honda
Acting Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill, we urge you to appropriate resources to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) at a level that will allow local law enforcement to execute the program’s intended purpose.

As you know, SCAAP is a grant program that reimburses states and local governments for the cost of incarcerating undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes. By law, the federal government is ultimately responsible for immigration enforcement, including the incarceration of undocumented criminal offenders. When this is not possible, the law requires the federal government to compensate state and local governments for their incarceration costs.

Although appropriations levels for SCAAP have decreased dramatically in recent years, the costs incurred by local law enforcement for incarcerating undocumented criminal offenders have increased significantly. We must do a better job at providing the necessary resources for this vital program, which already falls far short of what states and local governments actually spend to incarcerate undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes.

We recognize the challenges of the current fiscal environment and thank you for your effort and dutiful consideration of FY 2017 appropriations priorities. We respectfully ask that the benefits of SCAAP to our local jurisdictions be carefully considered and that the program be appropriated at a level consistent with its federally mandated responsibility.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress
Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress

Jaan Vargas
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Paul Cook
Member of Congress
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Ruben Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress
Diane Black  
Member of Congress

Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress

Martha McSally  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

Marc A. Veasy  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Joe Heck, D.O.
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress