

Support Local Law Enforcement with SCAAP - State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

From: The Honorable Paul A. Gosar

Sent By: trevor.pearson@mail.house.gov

Date: 3/12/2015

Support SCAAP - State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

The deadline to sign onto this letter is **COB, Monday March 23.**

Dear Colleague,

Please join me in sending a letter to the House Appropriations Committee in support of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) during FY 2016 deliberations. SCAAP is a grant program that reimburses states and local governments for the cost of incarcerating undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes.

Compensation to local law enforcement agencies under SCAAP currently covers less than 18% of the actual cost of incarcerating undocumented criminal offenders. Further reducing resources for this vital program would shift an even greater burden onto states for what is a federal responsibility.

The text of the letter is below. Deadline is **COB Monday, March 23**. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Trevor Pearson in my office at 5-2315 or trevor.pearson@mail.house.gov

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.

Member of Congress

March 25, 2015

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Culberson and Ranking Members Lowey and Fattah:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill, we urge you to appropriate adequate resources to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) at a level appropriate to effectively execute the program's 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 states to fulfill what is essentially a federal function have increased. We cannot afford to reduce resources for this vital program, which already falls far short of what states and local governments actually spend to incarcerate undocumented criminal offenders. Reducing federal SCAAP reimbursements forces state and local law enforcement agencies to absorb a greater portion of the costs of a federal responsibility.

We recognize the challenges of the current fiscal environment and thank you for your effort and dutiful consideration of FY 2016 appropriations priorities. We respectfully ask that 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,

(<Signatory Blocks>)