

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
2468 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng,

We write to express our strong support for funding of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHC) in the FY 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. This important program was reauthorized in the 117th Congress on a bipartisan basis and provides states, local governments, and tribal nations with necessary resources to plan and implement initiatives for people with mental illnesses involved with the criminal justice system to increase public safety, reduce state and local spending, and improve the lives of people with mental illnesses and their families.

People with mental illnesses who are involved with the criminal justice system tend to stay in jail longer than people without mental illnesses. For example, people with mental illnesses spend twice as long in jail awaiting trial than people without mental illnesses. Those experiencing mental illnesses are also more likely to return to jail. Jails spend two to three times more on incarcerating people with mental illnesses, and yet this investment has not translated into increased public safety or advances in longer-term recovery.

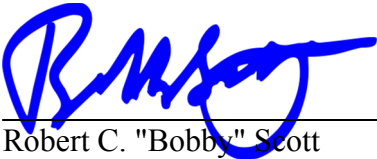
Congress can take a leadership role to address this challenge by continuing its bipartisan support for funding to bring together mental health providers, criminal justice agencies, law enforcement, consumers, and family members to better identify and address the needs of people with mental health conditions involved with the criminal justice system. This collaboration helps direct people to appropriate care, which saves lives, reduces recidivism, long-term incarceration, and other criminal justice costs.

The JMHC program fosters these collaborations and connects people involved with the criminal justice system to treatment for behavioral health needs. Specifically, JMHC supports local innovations in applying research-based approaches to improve public safety and health outcomes through a range of strategies. These include police mental health collaboration programs, mobile crisis teams, crisis services diversion programs, mental health courts, reentry services, and law enforcement mental-health learnings sites. The program also supports suicide prevention in jails, co-responder teams, information-sharing between mental health systems and jails/prisons, and crisis intervention teams placed in 911 call centers. Additionally, the JMHC provides important training and resources that benefit sites that do not receive grant funding.

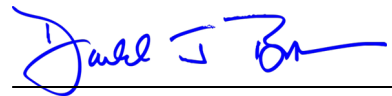
To date, JMHCP appropriations have funded mental health courts, other court-based initiatives, local police departments, and other programs to improve outcomes for people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use conditions who come into contact with the justice system. JMHCP has funded more than 795 grants across 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Guam, and American Samoa.

With the responsibility of responding to and treating people with mental illnesses often falling on an already strained criminal justice system, it is clear that we need to redirect resources from containment to more effective strategies and treatment. By focusing our efforts on these proven strategies, we have an opportunity to address overcrowding in our correctional facilities and to stop using jails and prisons as substitutes for a properly functioning mental health system. We appreciate your subcommittee's continued support for this important program in the FY2026 CJS bill.

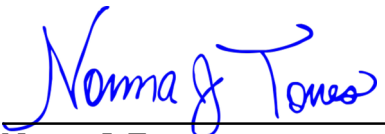
Sincerely,




Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress




Don Bacon
Member of Congress



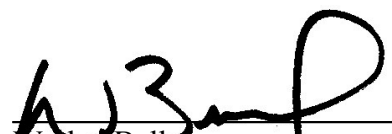
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



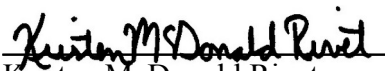
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



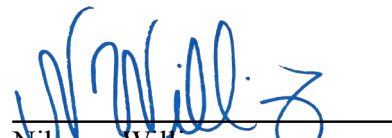
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



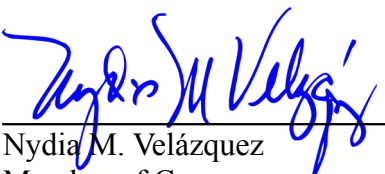
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



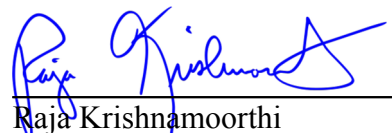
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
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Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



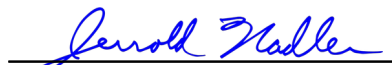
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



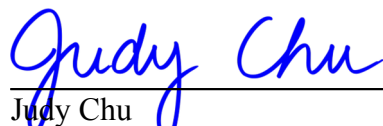
Jerrold Nadler
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Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



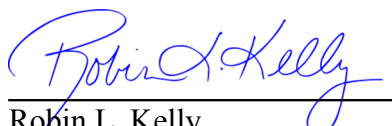
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



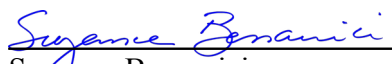
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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David Scott
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



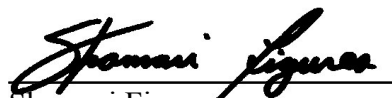
Diana DeGette
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Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



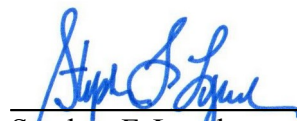
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



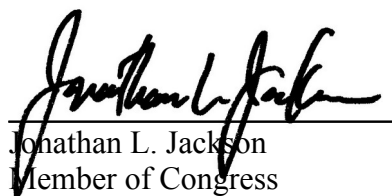
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



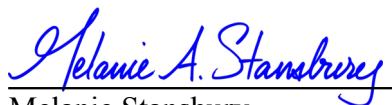
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



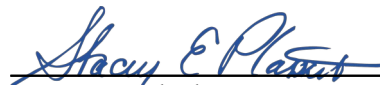
Melanie Stansbury
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Debbie Dingell
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Chris Pappas
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Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



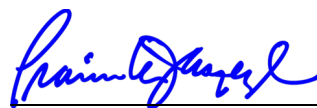
William R. Keating
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André Carson
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



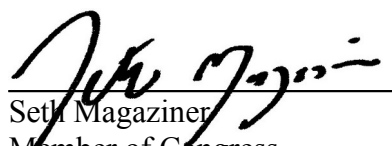
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



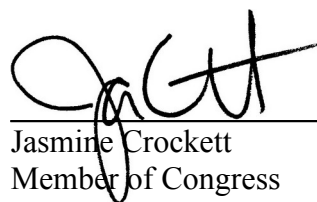
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



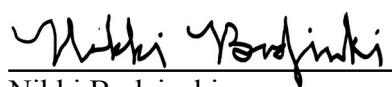
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
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Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



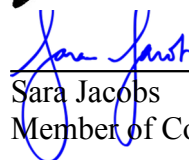
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



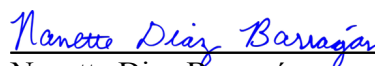
Lori Trahan
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Sara Jacobs
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Morgan McGarvey
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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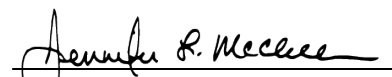
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



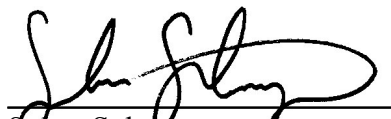
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress




Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress




Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



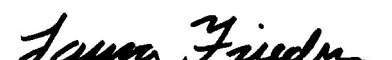
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress




Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress




Froy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



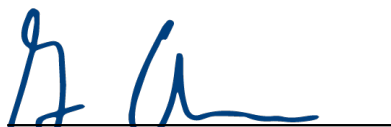
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress




Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



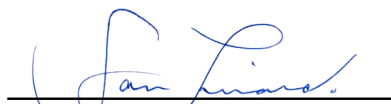
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



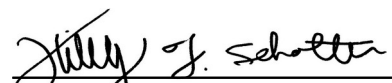
Gabe Amo
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Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress




Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



Hillary G. Scholten
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
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