



TEAM: PUBLIC SAFETY

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SUBJECT: STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

APPENDIX:

- **Ensure stable, predictable Federal funding for local public safety:** Local public safety agencies operate in high-risk environments that require long-term staffing, capital planning, and operational certainty. Stable, predictable federal funding – without abrupt reductions, rescissions, or mid-year changes – is essential to maintaining readiness and protecting communities. Predictable funding allows agencies to responsibly hire personnel, replace aging equipment, and sustain specialized capabilities without disrupting service delivery. Funding volatility undermines preparedness, weakens workforce stability, and increases long-term costs to taxpayers.
- **Reauthorize and fully fund core fire and law enforcement programs:** Congress should reauthorize and fully fund cornerstone programs administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Department of Justice, including Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S), and COPS Hiring Grants. These programs directly sustain frontline staffing, apparatus replacement, training, and responder safety initiatives. Predictable, multi-year funding ensures agencies can recruit and retain personnel without facing hiring freezes or layoffs driven by federal uncertainty.
- **Protect and strengthen PP-GEMT:** The Public Provider Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (PP-GEMT) program is a critical supplemental funding



mechanism that helps public EMS providers recover the true cost of delivering ambulance services to Medicaid beneficiaries. For many fire-based EMS systems, PP-GEMT revenue helps close structural reimbursement gaps that Medicare and Medicaid alone do not cover. Sustained authorization, timely approvals, and protection from administrative disruptions are essential. Any instability or unexpected changes in PP-GEMT policy can directly impact staffing, ambulance deployment, and system reliability. Maintaining a predictable PP-GEMT framework ensures communities continue receiving timely emergency medical care.

- **Support infrastructure modernization:** Modern public safety infrastructure – including training centers, emergency operations facilities, interoperable communications systems, and custodial facilities – requires sustained federal partnership. Stable funding streams prevent deferred maintenance, reduce lifecycle costs, and enhance operational effectiveness. Predictable capital support enables long-term planning rather than reactive, short-term fixes.
- **Fully fund homeland security and preparedness programs:** Programs such as the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) are essential to maintaining interoperable communications, cybersecurity protections, logistics planning, and catastrophic incident readiness. Full, predictable funding ensures that regions can sustain specialized teams and maintain readiness year over year without restarting critical planning efforts. This federal commitment should also include continued support for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), which strengthens coordinated medical response capabilities alongside fire, law enforcement, and emergency management agencies. Together, these programs reinforce an integrated preparedness framework that protects operational continuity and community safety during large-scale incidents.
- **Increase funding for FEMA Urban Search and Rescue:** The FEMA Urban Search and Rescue system provides indispensable national response capacity for large-scale disasters. Rising equipment, training, and labor costs require funding levels

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that keep pace with demand. Stable funding ensures task forces remain fully equipped, staffed, and deployable without degradation in capability.

- **Support EMS, Mobile Integrated Health, Triage to Alternative Destination, and bolstered behavioral health crisis response:** EMS systems nationwide face increasing operational complexity, workforce shortages, hospital offload delays, and reimbursement shortfalls that directly affect overall public safety readiness. Sustained federal investment in EMS, Mobile Integrated Health (MIH), Triage to Alternative Destination (TAD), and behavioral health crisis response strengthens coordinated field response, supports fire and law enforcement operations, and improves system efficiency. Stable EMS funding reinforces response-time reliability, workforce sustainability, and the integrated public safety framework that communities depend on. Reliable funding enables agencies to deliver the right care at the right time while reducing pressure on hospitals, fire, EMS, and law enforcement.
- **Address the fentanyl crisis with sustained resources:** The fentanyl crisis demands long-term, coordinated federal support for enforcement, prevention, public education, responder protection, and treatment coordination. Short-term or inconsistent funding undermines progress and disrupts regional response strategies.
- **Stabilize victim assistance funding:** Federal funding dedicated to victims of crime must be stabilized to ensure uninterrupted access to counseling, shelter, legal advocacy, and recovery services. Predictable funding reinforces community trust and strengthens the overall justice and public safety system.