

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 201510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee of Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 201510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy:

America's drug courts and veterans treatment courts have successfully reduced crime, saved billions of tax dollars, and transformed the lives of more than 1.5 million citizens and veterans. Today, these programs are on the front lines of the opioid epidemic and have become important resources for law enforcement and other community stakeholders affected by opioid addiction and related crime. As you consider Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations, we ask for your support to ensure that continued funding is appropriated for drug courts and veterans treatment courts at the Department of Justice.

The drug court system – which requires nonviolent offenders to remain in treatment and undergo drug testing while under judicial supervision – has been cited as the nation's most fiscally responsible method for dealing with offenders. In fact, the most comprehensive study on drug courts to date (the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice's National Multi-Site Adult Drug Court Evaluation) concluded that drug courts provide an average cost savings of \$6,000 per participant.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported in 2011 that drug courts reduce crime by up to 58 percent. Research also shows that about 60 percent of drug court participants complete at least 12 months of treatment, as compared with only 10 percent of probationers and parolees.

Veterans treatment courts effectively assist former servicemembers who suffer from serious mental health issues and substance abuse or dependency issues. These innovative courts provide veterans, whose contact with the criminal justice system results from these issues, a chance to complete treatment and get their lives back on track.

We hope that you support the work of drug courts and veterans treatment courts in the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process. Thank you in advance for consideration of our request.

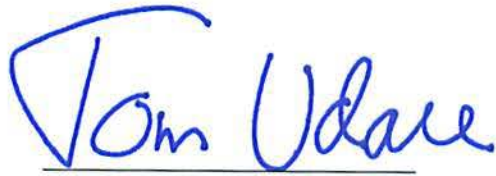
Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



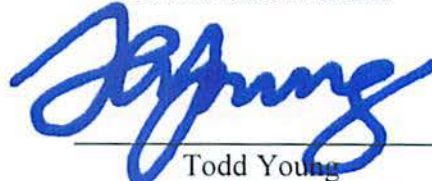
Tom Udall  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



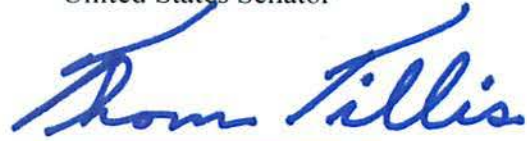
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator




Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



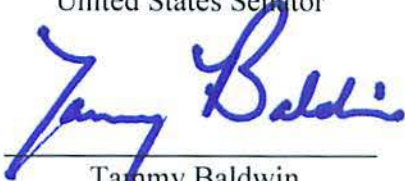
Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Martha McSally  
United States Senator

  
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator


  
Cory C. Peters  
United States Senator


  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

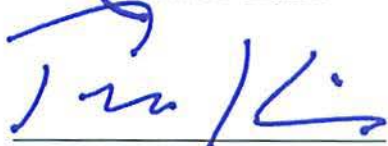
  
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

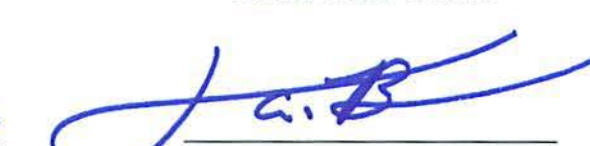
  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

  
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

  
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

  
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

  
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

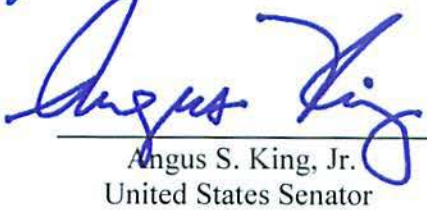
  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator

  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

  
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

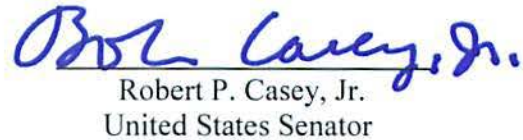
  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator

  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

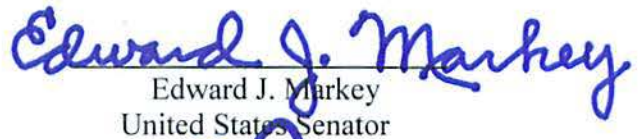
  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

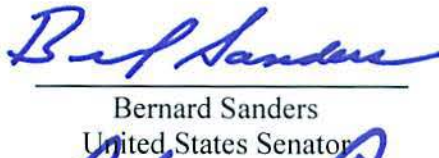
  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

  
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

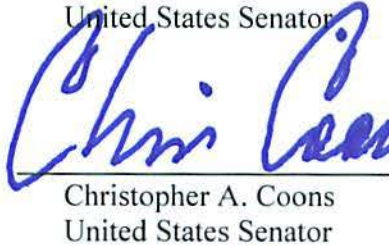
  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

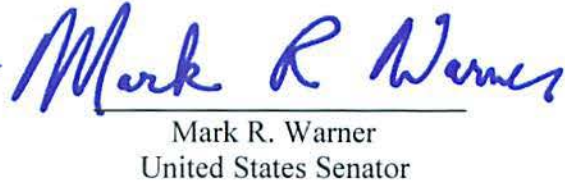
  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

  
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

  
Doug Jones  
United States Senator


  
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

  
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

  
Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

  
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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

  
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Jack Rosen  
United States Senator

  
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Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator