

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2006

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Science, the Departments
of State, Justice, and Commerce, and
Related Agencies
H-309 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-6017

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Science, the Departments
of State, Justice, and Commerce, and
Related Agencies
H-309 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-6017

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan:

As you consider the fiscal year 2007 funding levels for the Department of Justice, we request that you fully fund the Administration's request of \$69 million for the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program.

Drug courts have proven to be a useful tool in the fight against substance abuse and crime. In February 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report (GAO-05-219) to the Congress confirming that drug courts effectively reduce recidivism. Last year alone, 16,000 individuals graduated from drug courts and more than 840 children were born drug-free to drug court clients.

Most importantly, drug courts are one of the most powerful tools we have in addressing the methamphetamine epidemic that is damaging our communities. Law enforcement and manufacturing restrictions have had a positive impact on our ability to deal with this epidemic, but a critical part of our strategy must involve the treatment of the thousands of addicted individuals who enter our court systems.

Across the country, drug courts have shown great success with the methamphetamine addicted population. In June 2005, the Department of Justice released a report confirming this claim; it emphasized that drug courts are a critical part of our strategy with methamphetamine.

Despite these successes, in the FY 2006 appropriations bill the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program was reduced by \$30 million from its FY 2005 level. The National Association of Drug Court Professionals estimates that over 10,000 individuals will not receive drug court treatment as a result of these cuts, and as a result they will continue to use drugs, such as methamphetamine, and commit crimes. Drug courts are often the first and only alternative to incarceration that most drug users have to become healthy and productive members of society. That is why it is vital to fully fund the Administration's request for the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this most important program.

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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