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BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES

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Good morning, Chairwoman Mikulski, Vice Chairman Shelby, and other distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to highlight the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Budget for the U.S. Department of Justice – and to discuss the department's recent achievements and future priorities. I would also like to thank you for your leadership in securing the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2014, which restores Justice Department funding to pre-sequestration levels – and even adds funding for key priorities.

In February, as a result of the FY 2014 appropriation, I was able to lift the department-wide hiring freeze that had been in place for over three years, and had resulted in the loss of over 4,000 employees. We are now able to fill critical vacancies and resume the normal hiring process for federal agents, prosecutors, analysts and other staff we need to fulfill our varied missions, including: protecting the American people from terrorism and other national security threats; combating violent crime; eradicating financial fraud; and safeguarding the most vulnerable members of society.

Across the board, I'm extremely proud of the exceptional work that Justice Department employees perform on a daily basis, despite escalating threats and challenges. They are a credit to the department, to our nation, and to the American people we are privileged to serve. Like you, I am committed to securing the resources and support DOJ employees need to carry out their important duties – and to keep advancing the cause of justice that remains our common pursuit.

The resources provided this fiscal year will help us carry out our critical law enforcement responsibilities and enhance public safety. The President's FY 2015 Budget request builds on the funds provided in FY 2014 that are vital to thwarting sophisticated adversaries, protecting our citizens from gun violence and other types of crime, and maintaining safe and secure operations throughout the federal correctional system.

The President's FY 2015 Budget requests \$27.4 billion in discretionary resources for the department, including \$25.3 billion for federal programs and \$2.1 billion for discretionary state, local, and tribal assistance programs. This represents a 0.4 percent increase over the FY 2014

enacted level and allows the department to continue its trajectory towards fiscal and operational health. More specifically, the President's FY 2015 Budget request:

- **Invests in criminal justice reform.** The budget invests \$173 million in my “Smart on Crime” initiative, which is designed to promote reforms to the criminal justice system that will improve public safety, save money, and ensure the fair and effective enforcement of federal laws.
- **Invests in federal civil rights enforcement.** To help meet the nation’s civil rights challenges, the FY 2015 Budget invests a total of \$273 million, including \$8 million in new resources, to support the department’s enforcement of federal civil rights laws, including laws on human trafficking, hate crimes, disability rights, and many others.
- **Maintains critical counterterrorism and counterespionage programs, as well as intelligence gathering and surveillance capabilities.** The budget invests a total of \$4 billion to sustain recent increases that support national security investigations, including an enhancement of \$15 million to fund the costs of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) new Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center – or TEDAC – at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama.
- **Supports the Administration’s initiative to reduce gun violence.** The budget invests a total of \$1.1 billion in federal and grant programs in support of the President’s “Now is the Time” initiative, which includes \$182 million to sustain investments provided in FY 2014. These resources will help ensure that those who are not eligible to purchase or possess guns are prevented from doing so. In addition, the request delivers grant funding to continue the Comprehensive School Safety Program, to encourage the development of innovative gun safety technology, and to provide training for active shooter situations.
- **Enhances efforts to combat and keep pace with increasingly sophisticated and rapidly evolving cyber threats.** Cybercrimes are becoming more common, more sophisticated, and more dangerous. The President’s Budget invests a total of \$722 million, including \$8 million in enhancements to federal programs and grants, to address computer intrusions and cybercrimes and defend the security of the department’s critical information networks.
- **Substantially improves the ability to provide legal assistance to foreign law enforcement partners.** In order to better assist foreign government partners with investigating and prosecuting criminals, the budget invests an additional \$24 million to reduce the current backlog of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty requests, to process requests in a matter of weeks, and to cut overall response times in half by the end of 2015.
- **Sustains financial fraud law enforcement efforts.** The budget invests a total of \$681 million in the department’s ongoing efforts to investigate and prosecute mortgage fraud and financial schemes that harm the American people and our financial markets.
- **Strengthens enforcement of immigration laws and addresses the immigration case backlog.** To help increase efficiency in the immigration courts, the budget requests enhancements of \$23 million in order to add 35 new Immigration Judge Teams and 15 new Board of Immigration Appeals attorneys and to expand the successful Legal Orientation Program as well as a pilot program to implement additional efficiencies in the immigration program overall.

- **Maintains safe and secure prison capacity.** The budget provides \$8.5 billion to maintain secure, controlled federal prison and detention facilities and to continue bringing newly completed or acquired prisons on-line in order to protect public safety by alleviating prison crowding. Further, the budget includes resources to support implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act in federal, state, and local prisons and jails, and to help inmates successfully transition back into their communities.
- **Enhances state, local, and tribal law enforcement programs.** In total, the FY 2015 Budget requests \$3 billion in mandatory and discretionary funds for state, local and tribal law enforcement assistance. These funds will allow the department to continue to support our state, local and tribal partners who fight violent crime, combat violence against women, and support victim assistance programs. The FY 2015 request will bolster the department's efforts to ensure that federal grant funding flows to evidence-based purposes and helps to advance knowledge of what works in state and local criminal justice systems.

In addition, the FY 2015 Budget proposes additional discretionary investments as part of the Administration's Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative. This initiative targets investments for state and local assistance grants, such as the Comprehensive School Safety Program and a new youth investment program; resources to speed up the process of bringing on-line newly completed or acquired prisons; and funding for the investigation and prosecution of the full spectrum of financial fraud.

The FY 2015 Budget recognizes the multi-faceted nature of the department's work and outlines spending priorities for critical mission areas. We must continue to grow both tougher and smarter on crime. This budget builds on the great work being done by the dedicated employees of the department across the country and around the world to reduce violent crime and reform our criminal justice system.

### **Becoming Smarter on Crime**

Just over one year ago, at my direction, the Justice Department launched a targeted review of the criminal justice system in order to identify reforms that would ensure federal laws are enforced fairly and efficiently. In 2013, as part of this review, the department studied all phases of the criminal justice system, including charging, sentencing, incarceration and reentry, to identify the practices that are successful at deterring crime and protecting the public.

Today, a vicious cycle of poverty, criminality, and incarceration traps too many Americans and weakens too many communities. While we will continue to aggressively enforce federal criminal statutes, we recognize that we cannot arrest and incarcerate our way to becoming a safer nation. To be effective, federal efforts must also focus on other critical aspects of criminal justice, including prevention and reentry.

With that in mind, the budget requests \$173 million in support of the department's efforts to promote alternatives to incarceration for people convicted of low-level, non-violent drug offenses, and invests in reentry programs in order to reduce recidivism among formerly incarcerated individuals. Each dollar spent on prevention and reentry at the federal, state and local levels has the potential to save far more in incarceration costs.

## **Safeguarding the Most Vulnerable Members of Society**

Last month, I had the privilege of attending a celebration commemorating the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 alongside many esteemed jurists, public servants and public safety officials. In the years that followed adoption of this landmark legislation, this struggle – to secure what President Johnson once called the “dignity of man and the destiny of democracy” – would lead to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and a range of other reforms, both large and small. Together, these changes altered the course of the 20th Century. Moreover, they led the Department of Justice to take an active role in defending the civil rights to which everyone in this country is entitled – work that remains among our top priorities today.

Since 2009, the Civil Rights Division has filed more criminal civil rights cases than at any other time in our history, including record numbers of police misconduct and human trafficking cases. Under the leadership of our Civil Rights Division and our Community Relations Service (CRS), we are using important tools like the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act to prevent and respond to hate crimes on behalf of those who are victimized because of who they are, what they look like, or who they love. Under the leadership of the Civil Division, we are working diligently with our federal agency partners to implement the Supreme Court’s ruling in *United States v. Windsor* to make real the promise of equal protection under the law for *all* American families – and to extend applicable federal benefits to all married same-sex couples. And we are vigorously enforcing federal voting protections to help ensure that every eligible American has access to the franchise.

The FY 2015 Budget will support the department’s appropriately aggressive enforcement of federal civil rights laws in all of these areas, in addition to fair housing, fair lending, and disability rights, among many others. In total, the request seeks \$273 million to help meet the nation’s civil rights challenges, including an additional \$8 million in program increases for the Civil Rights Division and CRS.

## **Protecting the American People from Terrorism and other National Security Threats**

As I have said many times before, the department’s top priority must always be the protection of the American people from terrorism and other national security threats. The FY 2015 Budget provides a total of \$4 billion in direct funding to maintain critical counterterrorism, counterespionage, intelligence collection, and national security oversight programs. In addition, the budget sustains recent increases that support national security investigations. The FY 2015 Budget also requests a \$15 million program increase to fund the cost of operations and maintenance of the FBI’s new TEDAC facility at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, which will become operational in late 2014. TEDAC provides direct support to U.S. Government efforts to prevent and mitigate improvised explosive device attacks both in the United States and abroad, and has already provided critical assistance to domestic and international cases, including last year’s Boston Marathon bombing.

The FBI uses intelligence and investigations to combat national security threats and protect and defend the United States against terrorism and foreign intelligence threats. In FY 2013, the FBI dedicated approximately 4,500 agents to investigating more than 18,000 national security cases.

The National Security Division (NSD) is responsible for overseeing terrorism investigations and prosecutions; handling counterespionage cases and matters; and assisting the Attorney General and other senior department and Executive Branch officials in ensuring that the national security-related investigations and activities of the United States are consistent with the nation's laws and regulations, including those that protect privacy interests and civil liberties. In coordination with the FBI, the Intelligence Community, and the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, NSD's primary operational functions are to prevent acts of terrorism and espionage inside the United States and to facilitate the collection of information regarding the activities of foreign powers and their agents.

The department has had many noteworthy successes on the national security front. We have continued to: strengthen key intelligence-gathering capabilities; refine our ability to identify and disrupt potential terrorist plots; and ensure that those charged with terrorism-related offenses are held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. From the recently-unsealed guilty plea of Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame, a former senior al-Shabaab commander and emissary to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, on charges of terrorism, to the extraordinary and highly-coordinated FBI-led response to last year's Boston Marathon bombing, the department and its law enforcement allies have relentlessly worked to secure the American homeland and bring those who would harm our people to justice. In fact, just last week, the department achieved a major milestone when we secured the conviction of Sulaiman Abu Ghayth, the son-in-law of Usama bin Laden and a senior member of al Qaeda, on terrorism-related charges.

This verdict has proven that proceedings such as these can safely occur in the city I am proud to call home, as in other locations across our great nation. It was appropriate that this defendant, who publicly rejoiced over the attacks on the World Trade Center, faced trial in the shadow of where those buildings once stood. We never doubted the ability of our Article III court system to administer justice swiftly in this case, as it has in hundreds of other cases involving terrorism defendants – and this outcome vindicates the government's approach to securing convictions of senior al Qaeda leaders. It would be a good thing for the country if this case has the result of putting that political debate to rest.

In addition to its national security work, the department has successfully executed ground-breaking counterintelligence operations to safeguard sensitive U.S. military and strategic technologies and keep them from falling into the wrong hands. In February, Robert Patrick Hoffman II, a cryptologic technician with the Navy, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for attempting to commit espionage on behalf of the Russian Federation against the United States. Working aboard or in conjunction with U.S. submarines for much of his naval career, Hoffman held security clearances and regularly received access to classified national defense information about U.S. submarines and their capabilities, and about adversaries, specific missions, and U.S. military and naval intelligence. Hoffman supplied to undercover FBI agents, among other things, national defense information classified at the levels of Secret and Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information. By attempting to hand over some of America's most closely held military secrets, Hoffman put U.S. service members and this country at risk.

National security threats are constantly evolving, requiring significant resources to adapt to those threats. However, as President Obama noted in a speech at the Justice Department earlier this year, it is imperative that we continue working to protect our national security while

upholding the civil liberties we all hold dear. In January, we and our partners in the Intelligence Community took a significant step toward fulfilling the President's commitment to greater transparency by permitting communications providers to disclose more information than ever before about the number of national security orders and requests they receive and the number of customer accounts targeted under those orders and requests. And as we move forward with the timely implementation of other reforms, my colleagues and I remain committed to working closely with Congress to implement the President's transparency directives and determine the best path forward for these programs.

### **Improving Our Ability to Implement and Enforce Gun Safety Measures**

Gun violence has touched every state and locality in America, and addressing this epidemic remains a high priority for the department. In 2013, following the Newtown, Connecticut, school shootings, the Administration proposed a range of legislative remedies to address mass shootings and reduce gun violence. The department is working to implement a number of these actions and requests a total of \$1.1 billion in FY 2015 to address violent gun crimes.

Of the total, \$1 billion in federal law enforcement resources will allow the department to ensure that those who are not eligible to purchase or possess guns are prevented from doing so. Within this amount, \$182 million is included for the President's "Now is the Time" initiative to support additional background checks, allow for continued focus on inspections of federally-licensed firearms dealers, improve tracing and ballistics analysis, and keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals and other prohibited persons. The department also has been working to strengthen the national background check system. For example, in January 2014, the department proposed a rule to clarify the definition of persons prohibited for mental health reasons from receiving, possessing, shipping, or transporting firearms. Further, an additional \$13 million is provided to the FBI to sustain the substantial investment made in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) in FY 2014.

The department is also taking a hard look at our federal laws and our enforcement priorities to ensure that we are doing everything possible at the federal level to keep firearms away from drug traffickers and other criminals. To support the enforcement of federal laws, the department is requesting an additional \$22 million for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which will allow ATF to sustain the firearms enforcement and inspection efforts funded in FY 2014.

The budget also requests \$147 million to help state and local governments continue to implement the Administration's proposals for increasing firearms safety and supporting programs that help keep communities safe from mass casualty violence. In addition to the FBI's role with the federal side of NICS, the department is working to strengthen national background checks by addressing gaps in the state records currently available in NICS. Incomplete or insufficient records significantly hinder the ability of NICS to quickly confirm whether a prospective purchaser is prohibited from acquiring a firearm. In FY 2015, the department requests a total of \$55 million in grant funding to further assist states in making more records available in NICS and enhancing the National Criminal History Improvement Program.

Beyond keeping guns out of the wrong hands, we also want to help those on the ground prevent and mitigate violent situations when they do occur. To this end, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), with the support of the FBI, will be providing a specialized training course for active shooter situations for law enforcement officers, first responders, and school officials. The department is requesting a total of \$15 million to support this training and other officer safety initiatives. In addition, the department is requesting \$75 million in grant funding for the Comprehensive School Safety Program, which was funded for the first time in FY 2014. Finally, the budget includes \$2 million for OJP to support the Administration's challenge to the private sector to develop innovative and cost-effective gun safety technology. The funding for this initiative will provide prizes for those technologies that are proven to be reliable and effective.

### **Investigating Cybercrime and Protecting Our Nation's Critical Networks**

Like other national security threats, cyber threats are constantly evolving and require a coordinated and comprehensive plan for protection and response. The department has a unique and critical role in cyber security that emphasizes domestic mitigation of threat actors and involves countering the threat by investigating and prosecuting intrusion cases, gathering intelligence in support of nation state attribution, and providing legal and policy support to other agencies. The department is also responsible for establishing effective internal network defense and serving as a model for other departments and agencies.

The FY 2015 Budget provides a total of \$722 million for cyber enforcement and maintains recent increases for NSD's prosecutorial efforts and the FBI's Next Generation Cyber Initiative, which has enhanced capabilities to combat cyber threats from individuals, organized groups and rogue actors. The request also includes an increase of \$3 million for the Criminal Division to strengthen its investigative and prosecutorial capabilities, and \$5 million to provide grants related to cybercrime and intellectual property enforcement.

The department is committed to carrying out its cyber security role, emphasizing intelligence and information sharing as well as the preservation of privacy, data confidentiality, and civil liberties. The Administration is working to improve government mechanisms for providing timely cyber threat information to the private sector so it can better protect and defend itself against cyber threats. Pursuant to an Executive Order on *Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity*, each federal department and agency is also required to develop and implement privacy and civil liberties safeguards in concert with its cyber security activities.

And although we work tirelessly to bring cyber criminals to justice, we need additional tools to strengthen the Justice Department's ability to combat crime and ensure individual privacy. I've recently called on Congress to create a strong national standard for quickly alerting consumers whose personal identifying information may be compromised. This would empower the American people to protect themselves if they are at risk of identity theft. It would enable law enforcement to better investigate these crimes. And it would hold compromised entities accountable when they fail to keep sensitive information safe. I hope I can count on your support.

## **Improving Collaboration with Foreign Law Enforcement Partners**

Criminal activity transcends national boundaries, requiring the United States and its foreign partners to cooperate in the provision of evidence and the extradition of persons. Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) requests are the formal way in which countries request assistance in obtaining evidence located in a foreign country for criminal investigations and proceedings located in another country. However, delays and difficulties in obtaining evidence, especially internet records, through the MLAT process are increasingly becoming a source of frustration for many of our foreign partners.

Continued delays in producing this type of information to our foreign counterparts could reduce their compliance with U.S.-initiated MLAT requests and their cooperation with U.S. law enforcement agencies, thus hampering our ability to investigate crime and prosecute criminals. In his January speech on the review of signals intelligence, the President stated that he “will devote the resources to centralize and improve the process we use to handle foreign requests for legal assistance, keeping our high standards for privacy while helping foreign partners fight crime and terrorism.” Pursuant to the President’s commitment, the department is leading an interagency effort to update, improve, and accelerate the handling of requests from foreign governments for evidence requested pursuant to MLATs.

Over the past decade, the number of requests for assistance from foreign authorities handled by the Criminal Division’s Office of International Affairs has increased nearly 60 percent, and the number of requests for computer records has increased ten-fold. While the workload has increased dramatically, our ability to handle them has not kept pace. The department’s FY 2015 Budget requests a total of \$44 million, including an increase of \$24 million for the Criminal Division, the FBI and U.S. Attorneys, for the department to significantly expand the number of personnel dedicated to reviewing and executing MLAT requests, and for technological enhancements to improve the way requests are analyzed, categorized, and prioritized. With these additional resources, the department will implement a robust centralized processing system, reduce backlog, cut its response time by half by the end of 2015, and respond to legally sufficient requests in a matter of weeks. Additionally, the resources will support training efforts for foreign partners to ensure they can meet U.S. evidentiary standards, which will enable the department to respond to their requests more quickly.

This MLAT reform effort involves collaboration among the Departments of Justice, State, and Commerce. Funds identified in the FY 2015 President’s Budget for improvements to the MLAT program will be coordinated across these departments and agencies as well as the commercial sector.

## **Prosecuting Financial and Mortgage Fraud**

Protecting consumers, investors, and our financial markets from fraud is one of the department’s top priorities. The budget maintains support to investigate and prosecute financial and mortgage fraud, providing a total of \$681 million for financial fraud enforcement. It also continues efforts to strengthen the department’s ability to pursue large-scale financial fraud.



Fraud harms the American people and has the potential to undermine our financial markets, and fraudulent misconduct may have contributed to the worst economic crisis in recent history. With its criminal and civil enforcement tools, the department plays a crucial role in achieving justice for those who have been victimized. Fraud cases are complex matters that can take years to investigate and prosecute. Last year, as part of our ongoing effort to hold accountable those whose conduct sowed the seeds of the mortgage crisis, the department filed lawsuits against Bank of America and the ratings firm Standard & Poor's. Since 2009, we have filed criminal charges against more than 46,000 white-collar defendants, more than half of whom are financial fraud defendants. And in November, the department reached a \$13 billion settlement with JPMorgan Chase & Co. – the largest settlement with any single entity in American history – to resolve federal and state civil claims related to the company's mortgage securitization process. These results demonstrate that no firm, no matter how profitable, is above the law – and the passage of time is no shield from accountability. They also reinforce our commitment to integrity and equal justice in every case, in every circumstance, and in every community.

### **Enforcing Immigration Laws and Addressing the Immigration Case Backlog**

The department has substantial responsibilities with respect to immigration, including enforcement, detention, judicial functions, administrative hearings, and litigation. The department's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) maintains a nationwide presence, overseeing the immigration court and appeals processes, receiving cases directly from Department of Homeland Security enforcement personnel. EOIR's immigration court caseload is increasing to unsustainable levels. Between FY 2009 and FY 2013, the caseload pending adjudication grew by 56 percent – from 229,000 to 358,000.

The FY 2015 Budget includes \$23 million in new resources to support and advance EOIR's mission. Of this amount, \$17 million is requested for EOIR to support 35 additional Immigration Judge Teams and 15 additional Board of Immigration Appeals attorneys. An additional \$3 million is included to expand EOIR's Legal Orientation Program, which improves immigration court proceedings for those who are detained by increasing their awareness of their rights and the overall process. Another \$3 million is requested to allow EOIR to continue the development and expansion of a pilot program that provides counsel to vulnerable populations, such as unaccompanied alien children, for which funding was provided in FY 2014.

### **Maintaining Safe and Secure Prison and Detention Facilities**

The department continues to prioritize the maintenance of secure, controlled prison and detention facilities, as well as investment in programs that can reduce recidivism. Federal prisons are operating over 30 percent above rated capacity. Spending on federal prisons consumes a quarter of the department's budget – an unsustainable figure that is nevertheless projected to continue to increase.

As part of the "Smart on Crime" approach I announced last August, I directed a significant change to the department's charging policies to ensure that people accused of certain low-level, non-violent federal drug crimes receive sentences appropriate to their individual conduct – and that stringent mandatory minimum sentences are reserved for the most serious

crimes. Alongside other important reforms, this change will make our criminal justice system not only fairer, but also more efficient, reducing the burden on our overcrowded prison system and freeing up resources for police and prosecutors and other vital law enforcement priorities.

The FY 2015 Budget includes funding to support this initiative, providing \$8.5 billion for prisons and detention, including \$6.9 billion for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and \$1.6 billion for Federal Prisoner Detention under the U.S. Marshals Service. Included in the total is \$29 million to sustain the investments made in FY 2014 for BOP's reentry programs, including the Residential Drug Abuse Program, Residential Reentry Centers, and reentry-specific education programs. In all, the budget requests a total of \$660 million for BOP's reentry-related activities. These resources provide critical opportunities for inmates to successfully transition back into their communities. Further, \$32 million in program increases are requested for federal detention to pay for increases in the average daily detainee population under the U.S. Marshals Service.

### **Investing in State, Local and Tribal Assistance Programs that Work**

The department continues to support its partnerships with state, local, and tribal law enforcement. The FY 2015 Budget maintains these commitments without cutting the department's federal operational role. Simultaneously, the budget identifies efficiencies to help ensure that federal resources are being targeted to the most effective grant programs. The FY 2015 request for state, local, and tribal law enforcement assistance is \$3 billion, including \$2.1 billion for discretionary grants and \$891 million for mandatory grants.

The department is requesting \$1.5 billion for the Office of Justice Programs' discretionary grants. The request increases funding for an evaluation clearinghouse, an indigent defense initiative, and evidence-based competitive programs. This includes funding to establish the Byrne Incentive Grants and Juvenile Justice Realignment Incentive grants, which will provide supplementary awards to states and localities using formula grant funds for evidence-based purposes. The budget also requests funding to address school safety and gun violence with resources to improve criminal history records information and for the Comprehensive School Safety Program, which initially received funding in FY 2014. In addition, the budget requests \$33 million to support the department's Access to Justice Initiative efforts, including to assess and improve the quality of indigent defense services in the United States. Finally, the request includes \$35 million for a new grant for communities to develop plans and identify the most critical needs to address sexual assault prevention, investigation, prosecution and services, including addressing untested sexual assault evidence kits at law enforcement agencies or backlogged crime labs.

The FY 2015 Budget includes a total of \$423 million for the Office on Violence Against Women, and continues the Administration's strong commitment to providing federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to combat sexual assault and violence against women. The request includes an increase of \$9 million for Legal Assistance to Victims Programs, Campus Violence, Grants to Support Families in the Justice System, and the Transitional Housing program. These programs fund proven and innovative interventions to save lives, hold abusers accountable, and rebuild families and communities. As a result of prior investments in this area, civil and criminal justice systems are more responsive to victims, and crimes of violence committed against women have declined in recent years. Even so, reducing such violence and

meeting the needs of the almost 1.3 million women victimized annually by rape and sexual assault, and the nearly seven million victims of intimate partner violence each year, remains a critical priority.

Finally, the request includes \$274 million for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), which supports a \$71 million increase for COPS Hiring and Tribal Law Enforcement programs. These resources will fund the hiring or retention of approximately 1,300 police officers and sheriffs' deputies across the United States, thereby supporting the efforts of state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies in meeting the challenge of keeping their communities safe.

### **Conclusion**

Chairwoman Mikulski, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Members of the Subcommittee, I want to thank you for this opportunity to share the significant accomplishments of the department over the past year, to highlight our ongoing priorities, and to discuss how the funding proposed in the FY 2015 President's Budget will help make the criminal justice system more effective and efficient.

The department recognizes the need for fiscal restraint, and we have focused our resources on priority initiatives. As evidenced by our national security and law enforcement achievements, and our continued ability to demonstrate a significant return on investment, we have proven our ability to target and respond to the nation's highest priorities efficiently and effectively. I look forward to working with this Subcommittee and with the entire Congress to build on these successes. And I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.