

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee of Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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 1.25 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 2019 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, drug-addicted offenders to remain in treatment and undergo random drug testing while under intensive judicial supervision – has been cited as the nation's most fiscally responsible method for dealing with substance-abusing 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 soldiers 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 2019 appropriations process. Thank you in advance for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



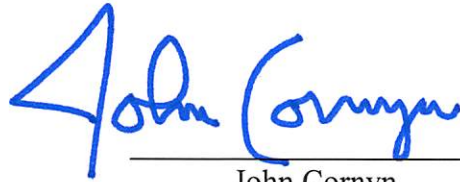
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



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



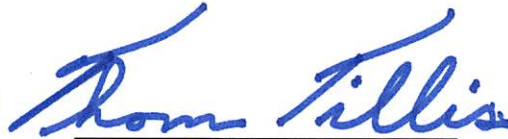
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



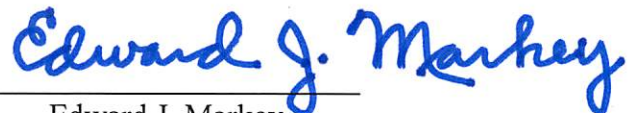
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



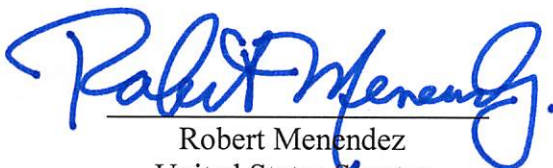
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



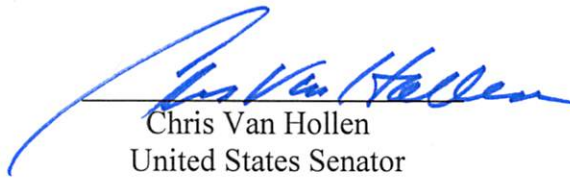
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

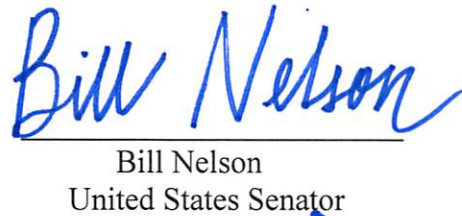


Robert Menendez
United States Senator

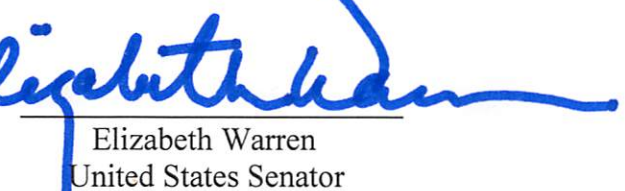


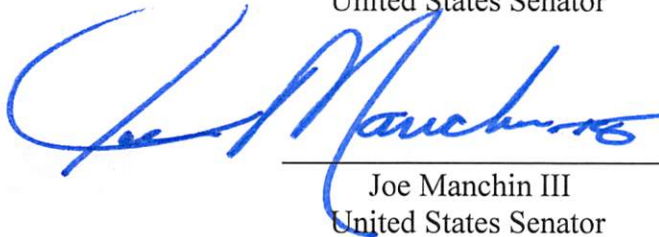
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

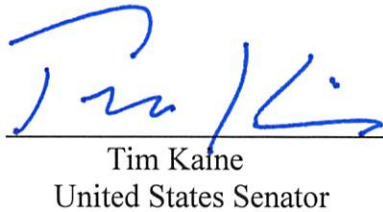

Bill Nelson
United States Senator

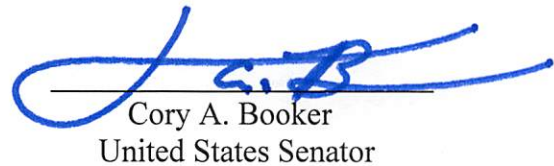

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

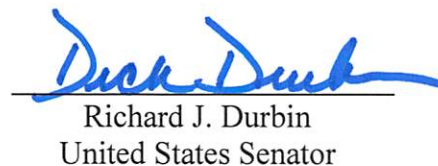

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

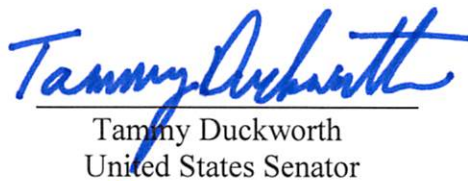

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator


Tim Kaine
United States Senator

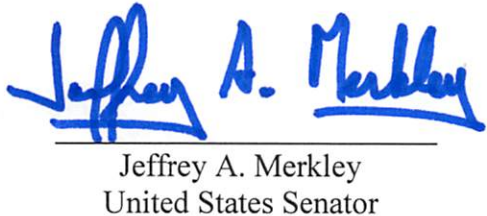

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

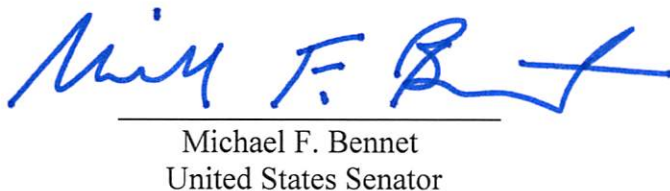

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

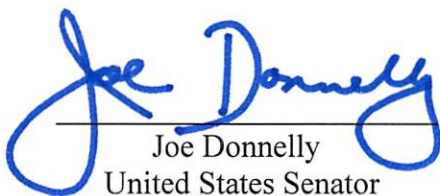

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator


Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

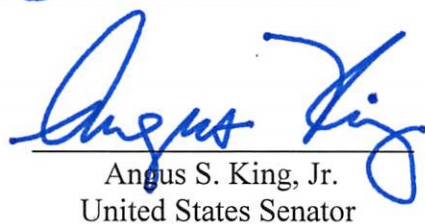

Tina Smith
United States Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

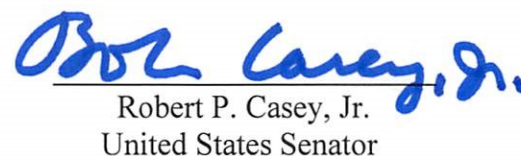

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

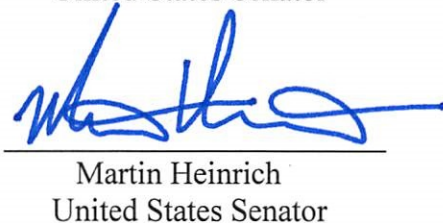

Jack Reed
United States Senator

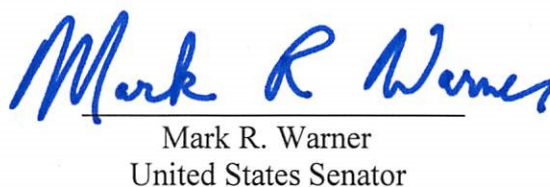

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

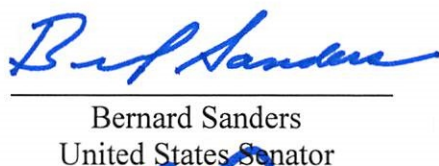

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

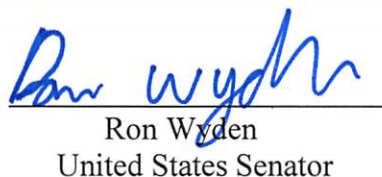

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator


Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

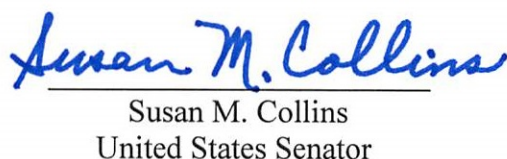

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Doug Jones
United States Senator


Jon Tester
United States Senator


Susan M. Collins
United States Senator