

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

We write to thank you for your continued support of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program, and to request that you include full funding for RISS in the Fiscal Year 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Additionally, we request that the subcommittee consider supporting the placement of a cap on the Department of Justice's Maintenance and Administrative Fees. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

As you are aware, the RISS Program enables law enforcement agencies across the country to resolve criminal investigations, apprehend and prosecute offenders, and ensure officer and public safety. Agencies across the nation rely on RISS for information and intelligence sharing, officer safety event deconfliction, and critical investigative support services—such as analytical products, equipment loans, and training. The RISS Program serves more than 10,355 state, local, tribal, and federal agencies, including many small and rural law enforcement agencies. Through RISS, these agencies are able to receive services and access resources that might otherwise not be available to them. RISS also plays an important role in federal information sharing initiatives.

RISS is an innovative, cost-effective, and evidence-based program that provides solid return on investment for our nation. Over the last ten years, officers leveraging RISS's services and resources reported more than \$2.3 billion in narcotics, property, and currency seizures (a 650 percent return on federal investment) and arrested more than 25,000 offenders. Millions of intelligence and investigative records are available through the RISS Secure Cloud. In addition, more than 555,000 undercover operations, buy-busts, and other law enforcement events have been identified as possible conflicts through the RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction Systems since that system's inception, thus avoiding potential blue-on-blue tragedies.

Without RISS's services and resources, more criminals, drugs, stolen property, and other contraband would still be on our streets. RISS supports and partners with many federal agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Data Exchange, the Homeland Security

Information Network, the Executive Office for the U.S. Attorneys, and the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System. Each day, agencies rely on RISS because of its proven, trusted, and solutions-based approach, and law enforcement officers use RISS to help solve cases and stay safe.

At the same time, Maintenance and Administrative Fees continue to increase, which reduces the amount of funds RISS receives each fiscal year. In FY 2012, the percentage of funds retained by the Department of Justice was 2.96 percent. The percentage increased to more than 10 percent by FY 2015 and has remained at approximately 9.1 percent through FY 2022. Setting a reasonable cap on Maintenance and Administrative Fees will ensure that optimal funding is available to RISS each fiscal year.

We appreciate your leadership on this and other law enforcement issues, and urge that you provide full funding for RISS in FY 2025. Should you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact us or have your staff contact John Simermeyer with Senator Hoeven at (202) 224-2551 or Jonathan Harris with Senator Whitehouse at (202) 228-6656.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



John Hoeven  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



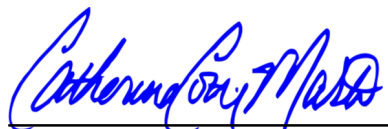
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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



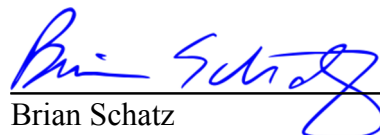
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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



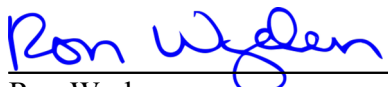
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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



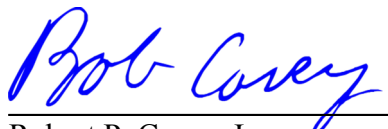
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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator




Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator




Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



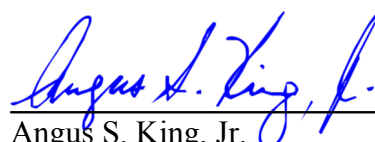
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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator