

Pennsylvania's Law Enforcement Leaders Support Senator Specter for Standing Firm Against Federal Public Safety Budget Cuts



FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Senator Specter:

After decades on the front lines in America's fight against crime, we know there is no substitute for tough law enforcement. Dangerous criminals must be prosecuted and locked up. But our years of experience have also taught us an important lesson. By helping kids grow up smart and healthy, we can help make sure that they never grow up to be violent criminals.

Pennsylvania's law enforcement leaders thank you for your March vote on an amendment to the federal budget staving off cuts in health care for low-income children and families, including mental health, foster care for abused and neglected children and childcare support for America's working families. Your opposition to the Medicaid cuts gained additional support recently with a letter signed by 44 Republican members of the House against the Medicaid cuts.

The 175 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and crime victims of the bipartisan, anti-crime organization FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS PENNSYLVANIA are convinced that our best crime fighting weapons can be found in good classrooms, safe foster homes and neighborhood health programs.

One study showed that a Medicaid funded mental health program reduced the number of troubled youths who had additional arrests by over 80 percent. Research confirmed that excluding at-risk children from a quality early childhood education program multiplied by five times the risk that they would grow up to be chronic lawbreakers by age 27. An additional study also found leaving kids in dangerous homes where they face continuing abuse and neglect increases the risk that they will become violent criminals by 27 percent.

We believe in sound budgets, fiscal responsibility and local accountability. We also believe cutting investments that help children get the right start in life actually squanders billions in tax dollars. If America doesn't pay now for smart investments that steer children away from a life of crime, we will all pay far more later in tax dollars, crime costs and victims' lives.

If you stand your ground to oppose any final budget that doesn't fully include the key improvements won on the Senate floor, Pennsylvania's law enforcement leaders and crime victims will stand shoulder to shoulder with you.

Respectfully,

Chief Joseph C. Blackburn
Allentown Police Department
Sheriff Peter R. DeFazio
Allegheny County Sheriffs Office
Chief John J. Finnegan
Chester Police Department
Hon. Joseph W. Carroll, III
Chester County District Attorney's Office
Chief Stephen J. White
Doylestown Township Police Department
Chief Steven M. Moran
Bensalem Township Police Department
Hon. Anthony J. Rosini
Northumberland County District Attorney's Office
Chief George W. Polnar
Monroeville Police Department
Sheriff Barry J. Jozwiak
Berks County Sheriffs Office
Chief Peter J. Mango
East Fallowfield Township Police Department

Chief Rick L. Baker
Sugarcreek Borough Police Department
Chief Darryl L. Albright
Northeastern Regional Police Department
Sheriff Denny Nau
Centre County Sheriffs Office
Chief Gary E. Hoover
Haverford Township Police Department
Sheriff Dennis C. Rickard
Butler County Sheriffs Office
Chief Henry Pasqualini
New Hope Police Department
Sheriff Donald D. Morey
McKean County Sheriffs Office
Chief Thomas J. Byrne
Ridley Park Police Department
Sheriff Carl E. Nace
Perry County Sheriffs Office
Chief Richard J. Mangan
Solebury Township Police Department
Sheriff Raymond W. Newman
Adams County Sheriffs Office

Chief John J. Norris
Cheltenham Township Police Department
Chief Tracy H. Lindo
Lower Burrell Police Department
Sheriff Chester A. Hawkins
Clearfield County Sheriffs Office
Chief Keith R. Reismiller
Middletown Borough Police Department
Hon. Shawn C. Wagner
Adams County District Attorney's Office
Hon. Michael A. Dinges
Lycoming County District Attorney's Office
Chief David J. Spotts
Mechanicsburg Borough Police Department
Sheriff Carl W. Brown
Somerset County Sheriffs Office
Chief James J. Magaw
Trainer Borough Police Department
Hon. H. Stanley Rebert
York County District Attorney's Office