

# National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies

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## **Funding for Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program**

The National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA) has been in existence since 1975. Its member agencies are state level drug enforcement agencies from the nation's state police, highway patrol departments, or from each state's agency responsible for statewide criminal investigations. The working members of NASDEA come from command level staff. All fifty states are represented within NASDEA.

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### **Summary of NASDEA Position**

**NASDEA strongly supports the continued funding of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program at the authorized level of \$1.1 billion for FY 2007, and opposes the Administration's proposal to completely eliminate the program.**

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The Administration's proposal to completely eliminate funding for the Byrne JAG program in FY 2007 would severely impact law enforcement capabilities and efforts related to the mission of public safety. The members of NASDEA represent state agencies that depend heavily on this funding to enhance critical programs in areas such as enforcement of controlled substance laws and prevention efforts. These funds are instrumental in the development of partnerships between local, state and federal agencies which are the essential component in effective law enforcement, particularly in narcotics investigations.

Throughout the years it has been in existence, Byrne funding has played a vital role in maintaining effective programs for law enforcement agencies that would otherwise be too costly for agencies to sustain. In the last few years the significant cuts to this support have had a negative impact on law enforcement agencies throughout the country, and factor into a rise in criminal activity in our communities. Elimination of Byrne JAG assistance would jeopardize many initiatives and negatively impact state and local agencies' efforts. In particular, the member agencies of NASDEA would suffer a significant impact, and the ability to continue many drug enforcement programs would be severely hampered.

As stated, NASDEA strongly supports the continued funding of the Byrne JAG program at the appropriated FY 2007 level of \$1.1 billion, and strongly opposes elimination of this vital support for law enforcement. Sustaining this funding is critical to the future efforts of public safety at the local, state and national level.