

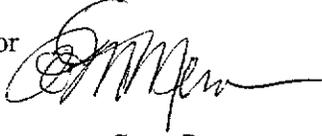
STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL
3075 N Montana Ave - PO Box 201408 - Helena, MT 59620-1408

EXHIBIT 1
DATE Jan. 10, 2005
HB 2; Montana Board
of Crime Control.

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Date: January 10, 2005
To: Representative Tim Callahan, Chair
Corrections and Public Safety Appropriations Subcommittee
From: Roland M. Mena, Executive Director
Montana Board of Crime Control 
Subject: Federal Byrnes and Local Law Enforcement Grant Program

Of particular concern are the Federal Byrnes and Local Law Enforcement grant programs. The federal allocation to the Montana Board of Crime Control which funds statewide drug enforcement (multi-jurisdictional drug taskforces) and rural and reservation law enforcement agencies was significantly reduced.

The net result of this reduction is the following:

- The Byrnes and Local Law Enforcement Grant have been consolidated into the "Justice Assistance Grant".
- Changes in the allocation formula reduced the JAG award to the Montana Board of Crime Control by \$1,113,677 for SFY2006.
- It is projected that the SFY2007 JAG allocation will be reduced at minimum by \$1,113,677. The 07 shortfall could be higher.
- The total SFY07 biennium reduction is projected to be \$2,227,354 at a minimum.
- Federal guidance for the JAG has not been issued. A pass through to local government may still be required, further reducing the amount available to the Board to allocate to the State Drug Taskforce.

Potential Impact:

- Reduction in Byrne funded drug agents and support services statewide
- Reduction in state crime lab production
- Reduction in clandestine lab detection
- Reduced rescues of drug endangered children
- Reduction in the amount of illegal drugs and guns removed from Montana communities
- Increase drug availability, manufacturing and trafficking and related crime
- Potential elimination of funds to rural and reservation law enforcement agencies for personnel, equipment and training

Please be advised that the Montana Board of Crime Control has directed me to work with the drug taskforce leadership to assist the Board with securing a sponsor to craft a bill requesting the 07-biennium shortfall of \$2,227,354 for drug enforcement.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued support and consideration of this serious issue.