



Corrections U.S.A.

The National Corrections Voice for Professionals by Professionals

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Corrections U.S.A. Urges Full Federal Funding to Reimburse States for the Costs of Incarcerating Criminal Aliens

James Baiardi
Chairman

Today, leaders of Corrections U.S.A. (CUSA), an association representing over 80,000 professional correctional officers nationwide, expressed disappointment at the Bush Administration's proposed budget for fiscal year 2008, which eliminates funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) for the seventh consecutive year.

Roy Pinto
Vice Chairman

CUSA is asking Congress to fully fund the SCAAP program in the Appropriation bill for 2008, as authorized in public law 109-162. The SCAAP program was enacted as part of the Crime Act of 1994, to ensure that state and local governments are not financially responsible for housing immigrants that enter this country and commit crimes in our communities.

Todd Dunn
Treasurer

Criminal aliens place a huge burden on scarce state and local resources. It has been estimated that state and county governments face more than \$13 billion a year in incarceration costs alone for criminal aliens. However, SCAAP has only provided between \$250 million and \$585 million in reimbursement funding annually from 1996 to 2006. These amounts are well short of the amounts paid by state and local governments and do not even come close to the amounts authorized for the SCAAP program under federal law.

Joe Baumann
Secretary

According to CUSA President Jim Baiardi "We are not asking for a government hand out. We are asking for the federal government to step up to the plate and reimburse state and local government for the costs associated with housing criminal aliens, as authorized under federal law. State and local resources need to be devoted to state and local responsibilities and not on paying the tab for failed federal policies."

Nina Salarno-Ashford
Administrator

Approximately 100,000 criminal aliens are currently housed in state and local correctional facilities. Baiardi said criminal immigrants are sentenced to serve time in state and local correctional facilities for murder, rape, drug offenses, burglary, aggravated assault, and other crimes. They contribute to overcrowding, gang violence and a host of other problems that threaten the security and safety of correctional facilities and communities across this country."

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"We are overwhelmed at the state and local level with prison overcrowding, violence, understaffing, and escalating costs to run our prison systems," said Baiardi. "If the federal government would do its job and prevent the illegal entry of criminals, this part of the problem would be solved. Short of that, we are asking the federal government to fully offset the costs of incarcerating these criminal aliens and allow state and local governments to use their limited resources addressing local priorities, instead of paying for failed federal policies," Baiardi concluded.

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