

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen:

As you consider appropriations for the fiscal year (FY) 2019, we write to respectfully request report language in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) account that would address the exclusion of 52 Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data sets from the annual *Crime in the United States* report for 2016.

The *Crime in the United States* report contains comprehensive data on the volume and rate of violent and property crime offenses in the country. It also includes data on arrests, clearances, trends, and law enforcement employees. These data tables provide policymakers, criminologists, and the public with critical information about crime trends in our country and represent an important source of objective data by which we can better monitor and understand criminal justice issues. We have concerns that the number of tables in the FBI's report was abruptly reduced from 81 to 29 with no explanation. It is imperative that this data be made available to the public.

As the FBI prepares its UCR datasets for full 2017 report, we would like to ensure that the missing 2016 data tables are made publicly available. In addition, we would like assurances that the missing data tables will be published in the 2017 annual report to ensure there is no additional gap in the availability of this data. Although we understand that the FBI is moving to a new online data service that will make these tables accessible, we are concerned that any delays in the launch of this new online service could result in another gap in making these 81 data tables available.

Therefore, we urge the inclusion of the following report language:

*The Committee was concerned when the FBI abruptly removed the majority of its longstanding data tables from the 2016 Crime in the United States annual report, which provides important data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) dataset to the research community and policymakers. The Committee directs the FBI to make the same UCR data tables from past annual reports fully available for all current and subsequent annual reports. In addition, the Committee directs the FBI to continue to make all of the*

*UCR data tables from past annual reports fully available for its 2016 and 2017 annual reports to ensure uninterrupted access and availability of these longitudinal data. The Committee also directs the FBI continue to release the 81 data tables as part of its annual report in the 2018 and subsequent annual reports.*

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ  
United States Senator



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
United States Senator