Invest to Protect Act Fact Sheet

The Invest to Protect Act of 2022 would establish a grant through the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to help small law enforcement agencies fund training, mental health support, recruitment, and retention. The bill gives agencies the flexibility to spend money where it will have the most impact for their unique circumstances and make meaningful investments in their officers and communities.

Most law enforcement agencies in the United States are relatively small. 95% of all local police departments employ no more than 125 officers. Nearly half of all local police departments have fewer than 10 officers and 9 in 10 agencies employ fewer than 50 officers. Small agencies struggle to provide the same resources and training for their officers as larger departments. In addition, staffing shortages continue to put strain on small agencies and impact their ability to keep communities safe.

The Invest to Protect Act would:
- Provide grants to law enforcement agencies with fewer than 125 officers to fund de-escalation training, access to mental health resources, recruitment, and retention.

- Allow DOJ to give preference to agencies applying for funds for de-escalation training.

- Require DOJ to evaluate barriers in the application process and provide technical assistance to agencies applying for grants.

- Require disclosure of the use of grant funds for signing or retention bonuses.

- Allow DOJ to audit any grantees to ensure funds are used appropriately.

- Require DOJ to ensure the grants are not duplicative of existing grant programs.

- This bipartisan legislation would support small law enforcement agencies and ensure grant funds are used appropriately while not overly burdening grantees with requirements that small agencies just can't meet.

The Invest to Protect Act is widely supported by the law enforcement community including the National Fraternal Order of Police, National Association of Police Organizations, and the National Sheriffs' Association.