

The Executive Committee voted to support the FY 2023 funding request for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) - March 2022

*Research, Evaluation, and Statistics.* - The Committee recognizes the critical role of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) in improving the nation's understanding of crime and justice through science and data. The Committee acknowledges that funding for these agencies has failed to keep pace with inflation over the past decade at a time when investments in modernization are urgently needed to develop evidence-based justice policies. Further, directives under the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* (PL 115-435) ("Evidence Act") and other Congressionally-requested initiatives have given these agencies new responsibilities and obligations without additional resources. The Committee directs the Office of Justice Programs, in cooperation with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on Law and Justice if necessary, to conduct an assessment of the impact of these dynamics on NIJ and BJS's ability to keep pace with cutting-edge scientific practice and emerging policy needs. OJP is further directed to develop a forward-looking vision for strengthening these agencies' ability to nimbly respond to and anticipate future needs and scientific developments over the next decade and identify the resources needed to achieve this vision. These activities should, where possible, be integrated into OJP's implementation of the Evidence Act. OJP shall provide an update to this Committee on its progress within 180 days from the enactment of this Act.