



ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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JIM DRISCOLL, COCONINO COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT
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THE ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION IS THE ONE UNITED CREDIBLE VOICE REPRESENTING LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE COUNTIES OF ARIZONA

May 17, 2019

The Honorable Martha McSally
United States Senator
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Reauthorization

Dear Senator McSally:

On behalf of the Arizona Sheriffs Association, I would like to express our support for your proposed reauthorization and expansion of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).

County sheriffs maintain the shared responsibility of enforcing Arizona's criminal laws. We also serve as the keeper of Arizona's county jails, including paying for the cost of medical care for inmates. While the federal government continues to address the problem of illegal immigration, Arizona's jails incarcerate undocumented immigrants who have committed state and local violations, incurring significant costs in custody and care of these inmates, including medical costs. SCAAP provides critical dollars to Arizona's counties that help pay for the cost of housing and caring for these inmates while they are in our custody.

Arizona's counties continue to struggle under the fiscal strain of anemic growth in rural areas and cost-shifts from the State of Arizona. Housing criminal aliens without federal assistance diverts needed resources away from our communities' public safety priorities. We understand that federal dollars cannot fully supplant state costs for these inmates. However, any financial assistance the federal government can appropriate to help pay for the costs of caring for these inmates will allow Arizona's sheriffs to concentrate on other important priorities, such as drug interdiction and search and rescue.

Since 2009, Arizona's counties have absorbed more than \$310 million in costs. A SCAAP reauthorization *that includes reimbursement for medical costs* would provide vital financial resources to Arizona's sheriffs, allowing us to better serve the public safety needs of our counties.

That's why on behalf of Arizona's county sheriffs, I write to express support for your efforts to reauthorize and expand the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).

Sincerely,

Jim Driscoll
Coconino County Sheriff
President, Arizona Sheriffs Association