



Department of Justice

STATEMENT OF

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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**

BEFORE THE

**UNITED STATES HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES**

FOR A HEARING ENTITLED

“FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE”

PRESENTED

APRIL 28, 2022

Good afternoon, Chairman Cartwright, Ranking Member Aderholt, and distinguished Members of this subcommittee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of the United States Department of Justice to discuss the President's funding request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

In the face of a range of evolving and complex challenges, the Justice Department remains committed to its mission of upholding the rule of law, keeping our country safe, and protecting civil rights. I am pleased with the progress the Department has made on each of these fronts since I appeared before you last June.

The Justice Department's success depends upon the trust of the people we serve. That trust must be earned every day. Over the past year, we have worked every day to uphold the norms and principles that are essential to the rule of law and upon which that trust depends. We have worked to counter the foreign-based threats from nation states, terrorist groups, radicalized individuals, and cyber criminals that seek to undermine our democratic and economic institutions and to sow fear among our people. And we have worked to counter persistent domestic-based threats. Those include domestic violent extremist acts aimed at undermining our democratic institutions, violent crime and gun violence that undermines our communities' trust in the rule of law, and corporate crime that threatens our economic institutions. We have worked to protect civil rights, stepping up efforts to deter, prevent, and prosecute hate crimes, and to foster trust between law enforcement and the communities we serve.

To continue and expand this important work in FY 2023, the Justice Department requests a total of \$37.65 billion in discretionary resources. Our top funding priorities are:

I. Keeping our Country Safe. Every person living in this country expects and deserves that their government protect them from a wide range of threats – from international and domestic terrorism to cybercrime and violent crime. As our country's chief law enforcement officer, I am committed to supporting members of law enforcement at all levels as they work to protect our country from these threats, while also safeguarding civil liberties and ensuring our own accountability to the American people. In total, the President's FY 2023 Budget requests more than \$20.2 billion to expand the capacities of our law enforcement components and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to keep our country safe. This includes:

- A total of \$10.80 billion for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to carry out its complex mission sets, including keeping our country safe from a multitude of serious and evolving threats, ranging from foreign terrorism to espionage and cyber threats and from violent crime to the proliferation and potential use of weapons of mass destruction.
- A total of \$2.77 billion for the United States Attorneys' offices, including resources to prioritize the prosecution of violent crime.
- A total of \$3.10 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to prevent the flow of deadly drugs into our communities.

- A total of \$1.81 billion for the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) to assist local law enforcement in apprehending violent fugitives from our neighborhoods and to protect our nation’s judges and courts.
- A total of \$1.73 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to enhance the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), modernize the National Tracing Center, and expand multijurisdictional gun trafficking strike forces with additional personnel.

In addition, to keep our country safe, the President’s FY 2023 Budget requests a total of \$133.5 million for the National Security Division, an increase of 10.6 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level.

II. Protecting Civil Rights. The President’s FY 2023 Budget requests robust support for the Justice Department’s core civil rights components. This includes:

- A total of \$215.2 million for the Civil Rights Division – an increase of \$52.7 million or 32.4 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level – to expand its efforts to deter and prosecute hate crimes, safeguard fair elections, and combat discrimination.
- A total of \$81.4 million to bolster the civil rights work of the FBI and a total of \$42.4 million to bolster the civil rights work of the United States Attorneys’ offices.
- A total of \$25 million for the Community Relations Service – an increase of 19.2 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level – to provide mediation and conciliation services to communities impacted by conflict.
- A total of \$10 million for the Office for Access to Justice to expand equal access to justice for all.
- A total of \$106.3 million in new funding to strengthen trust and accountability in law enforcement by expanding, formalizing, and managing Body Worn Camera programs for the FBI, DEA, USMS, and ATF, and \$7.9 million in new funding for the Environment and Natural Resources Division’s efforts to advance environmental justice and combat the climate crisis.

The Justice Department’s FY 2023 request also prioritizes significant investments in grants for state, local, Tribal and territorial law enforcement partners nationwide. The President has proposed a total of more than \$30 billion in new investments over the next decade to support law enforcement by funding the police, preventing crime, and accelerating justice system reform. In FY 2023, the President’s Budget includes the following resources for our law enforcement and community partners nationwide:

- A total of \$6.24 billion in discretionary and mandatory resources for the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to support critical longstanding Justice Department grant programs, including Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and Project Safe Neighborhoods, as well as new programming that will provide state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments with additional resources to prevent crime, reduce gun violence, and accelerate criminal justice system reform.
- A total of \$2.83 billion in discretionary and mandatory resources for the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) to support the hiring of police and sworn law enforcement personnel nationwide and the implementation of community-based strategies to combat violent crime. Specifically, the Department is seeking a total of \$537 million in discretionary resources for the COPS Hiring Program – an increase of 118 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level.
- A total of \$1 billion – an increase of \$425 million or 74 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level – for the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) to support longstanding Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs, including programs that provide critical resources to local, state, Tribal, and territorial partners across the country to fund police, prosecutors, courts, and victim services as well as resources to provide legal assistance for victims, transitional housing, and homicide and domestic violence reduction initiatives.

III. Safeguarding Economic Security, Fairness, and Opportunity. A fair economy is foundational to the American dream. To safeguard economic security, fairness, and opportunity for all, the President’s FY 2023 Budget requests a total of \$273 million, an increase of 41.6 percent, for the Antitrust Division to carry out its critical mission of promoting competition in the American economy and protecting workers, consumers, and businesses alike. In addition, the Department is committed to using every available federal tool – including criminal, civil, and administrative actions – to combat and prevent fraud. The President’s FY 2023 Budget request renews the Department’s request for critical funds for our United States Attorneys, the Criminal Division, and the Civil Division to protect consumers and combat and prevent fraud, including by bringing to justice those who seek to profit unlawfully from the COVID-19 pandemic.

IV. Administering Just Immigration Court and Correctional Systems. The Department’s FY 2023 budget requests critical resources that will allow us to carry out our responsibilities for administering our nation’s immigration court system and the federal detention and correctional systems. The requested funds for the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) will increase the number of immigration judges and broaden the availability of legal representation in immigration court. And the requested resources for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) will help improve staffing levels in BOP’s 122 facilities nationwide while also maintaining an investment of \$409.5 million for First Step Act implementation.

Greater detail on each of these priorities is provided below.

I. KEEPING OUR COUNTRY SAFE

The Justice Department is committed to doing everything in its power to protect the American people from all threats, foreign and domestic, while also protecting our civil liberties. Our country continues to face a multitude of serious and evolving threats, ranging from foreign terrorism to domestic extremism and from cybercrime to violent crime. These threats are as complex as at any time in our history. And the consequences of not responding to them have never been greater.

In the recently enacted FY 2022 Omnibus, Congress provided critical resources for the Department to strengthen its national security and law enforcement capacities, to focus our efforts on disrupting threats to our country, and to build deeper and even more effective partnerships, both here at home and around the world. Moving forward, enhancements are needed in order to keep pace of current and emerging case demands and public safety priorities in the 94 U.S. Attorneys' offices. The Department's FY 2023 request reiterates the need for these resource enhancements.

Today I would like to highlight five significant areas of focus to keep our country safe: (A) reducing violent crime and gun violence; (B) protecting national security, including by countering terrorism and fighting cybercrime; (C) combating drug trafficking and preventing overdose deaths; (D) protecting vulnerable communities; and (E) protecting our democratic institutions.

A. Reducing Violent Crime and Gun Violence

Last May, the Justice Department launched a comprehensive strategy aimed at mobilizing our federal prosecutors, agents, investigators, and criminal justice experts to disrupt and prosecute violent crime. To these ends, we directed all 94 United States Attorneys' offices across the country to work with our state and local partners to address the violent crime problems specific to their districts. We strengthened Project Safe Neighborhoods, our cornerstone initiative to reduce violent crime at the community level. We launched five cross-jurisdictional strike forces to disrupt illegal firearms trafficking in key corridors across the country. We finalized a new rule to curb the proliferation of unserialized ghost guns. We published model gun safety legislation for states. We established a new policy to hold rogue gun dealers accountable for willful violations of the law. And the Department's law enforcement components – including ATF, DEA, FBI, and the U.S. Marshals Service – continue to operate force-multiplying task forces with state and local law enforcement agencies.

The Department's FY 2023 funding request includes more resources for our law enforcement components to embed agents in homicide units in departments across the country, trace crime guns, recover illegal firearms, pursue violent fugitives, and disrupt violent drug trafficking. The Department's request also includes critical resources for our U.S. Attorneys' offices to prosecute those who commit violent crimes. In addition, the Department's request includes a variety of increases to address the problem of violent crime and murdered and missing indigenous persons in Indian Country. These enhancements include additional resources for the

Department's law enforcement components and U.S. Attorneys' offices in light of the Supreme Court's decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, 140 S. Ct. 2452 (2020).

In addition to expanding the capacity of federal law enforcement to make our communities safer, the President has proposed a total of \$30 billion in new mandatory investments to support law enforcement and crime prevention over the next decade. In FY 2023, the President's Budget includes significant investments in grants for state and local law enforcement partners nationwide. A total of \$6.24 billion is requested in discretionary and mandatory resources for OJP to support critical longstanding Justice Department grant programs, including Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and Project Safe Neighborhoods, as well as new programs that will provide state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments with additional resources to prevent crime, reduce gun violence, and accelerate justice system reform. In addition, a total of \$2.83 billion in discretionary and mandatory resources is requested for the COPS Office to support the hiring of police and sworn law enforcement personnel nationwide and the implementation of community-based strategies to combat violent crime. Specifically, the Department is seeking a total of \$537 million in discretionary resources for the COPS Hiring Program – an increase of 118 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level.

B. Protecting National Security

Countering Foreign and Domestic Terrorism. The Justice Department remains committed to countering terrorism and keeping pace with emerging terrorist threats while protecting civil rights and civil liberties. Our whole-of-Department commitment to countering terrorism is reflected in our request for more resources for our 94 U.S. Attorneys' offices; our law enforcement components, including the FBI; our grant-making offices; and our litigating divisions, including the National Security Division, the Civil Rights Division, and the Criminal Division. This request also includes resources to sustain and strengthen the FBI's counterterrorism efforts, including its Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs), the essential hubs for both international and domestic counterterrorism cooperation across all levels of government nationwide.

Enhancing Cybersecurity and Fighting Cybercrime. Keeping our country safe also requires countering cyber threats – whether from nation states, terrorists, or common criminals. One year ago, the Justice Department launched a comprehensive strategic cyber review aimed at improving our ability to investigate and prosecute state-sponsored cyber threats, transnational criminal groups, infrastructure and ransomware attacks, and the use of cryptocurrency and money laundering to finance and profit from cyber-based crimes. Over the past 12 months, the Justice Department has developed and implemented improvements on several fronts, including with respect to ransomware attacks and the criminal misuse of cryptocurrency. The President's FY 2023 Budget requests critical enhancements to support the Department's cyber efforts, including investments that support efforts to build cyber investigative capabilities at FBI field divisions and U.S. Attorneys' offices nationwide. These investments also further enhance the cybersecurity posture of the FBI, DEA, and Department more broadly. The Justice Department requires these significant investments to protect its own data and cyber infrastructure and to build on its efforts to combat the latest cyber threats.

Countering Nation-State Threats. The Justice Department is committed to taking a comprehensive approach that draws on the full extent of our tools and authorities to address the alarming rise in illegal and nefarious activities from hostile nations. The Department places a high priority on countering threats to our country posed by the governments of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Russia, Iran, and North Korea. Nefarious activities from hostile nation-states are increasingly brazen and threaten to undermine core American values and institutions – from unlawful and malicious cyber campaigns to the theft of technology and intellectual property to the use of espionage tools and tactics against American companies and workers alike.

To address these threats, the Justice Department is taking a variety of actions, including aggressively prosecuting state agents for espionage; preventing hacking campaigns; preventing the repression of dissidents; addressing efforts to manipulate public discourse in the United States; and fully enforcing violations of economic sanctions and export restrictions. The Department appreciates the \$59.4 million in supplemental funding for our efforts to respond to Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine, which, among other things, is supporting the work of the Department’s KleptoCapture Task Force. And we ask for your support for the President’s FY 2023 funding request, which seeks critical resources for Justice Department attorneys, agents, and intelligence analysts to continue the vital work of countering threats from hostile nation-states.

C. Combating Drug Trafficking and Preventing Overdose Deaths

The Justice Department is committed to keeping our country safe from violent drug trafficking gangs and cartels. These criminal networks are fueling the overdose epidemic in our country. In the twelve months between September 2020 and September 2021, more than 104,000 Americans died due to drug overdose. The overwhelming majority of these deaths involved opioids.

In 2021, DEA seized more than 15,000 pounds of fentanyl and more than 20.4 million counterfeit pills, many of which contained lethal amounts of fentanyl, marketed by criminal drug networks. The Department remains vigilant in addressing the evolving nature of the illicit drug threat and continues its work to dismantle illicit online drug marketplaces and to detect, limit, and deter illegal prescriptions, distribution, and diversion offenses that result in patient harm. We are committed to using all available resources to combat drug trafficking and prevent overdose deaths in the United States.

The President’s FY 2023 Budget requests critical resources to combat dangerous drug trafficking gangs and cartels and to prevent the flow of deadly drugs into our communities. This includes our request for a total of \$3.10 billion for DEA’s investigations, counterdrug efforts across 241 domestic offices and 92 foreign offices in 69 countries around the world, and diversion control. The Department’s funding request also includes more than a half a billion dollars in opioid-related grants, including increased funding for drug courts and locally driven responses to opioids and substance use.

D. Protecting Vulnerable Populations

The Department is committed to protecting and supporting all communities, including the most vulnerable among us. That includes our special obligation to protect children from crime and exploitation. Likewise, elder abuse, fraud, and neglect remain urgent problems in our country, particularly as the COVID-19 pandemic ushered in a new wave of exploitative practices targeted at seniors. The Department also has a unique legal relationship with, and responsibility to, federally recognized Tribes. Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, cuts across socioeconomic, racial, and geographic lines. In addition, low-income communities, LGBTQ communities, communities of color, people with disabilities, non-citizens, and victims of human trafficking face disproportionately high rates of victimization. The Justice Department is dedicated to protecting these communities.

The President's FY 2023 requests seeks to make investments in all of these areas. For example, the Department seeks an additional \$21 million for OJP's Missing and Exploited Children Program and requests additional funds for the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. The Department seeks to invest a total of \$1 billion in the Office on Violence Against Women, an increase of \$425 million or 74 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level. This funding request supports longstanding Violence Against Women Act programs, including programs that provide critical resources to all states and territories to fund police, prosecutors, and courts, as well as resources to provide legal assistance for victims, transitional housing, and homicide and domestic violence reduction initiatives.

E. Protecting Our Democratic Institutions

Finally, keeping our country safe requires protecting its democratic institutions, including the one we sit in today, from violent attack. The Department will continue to work closely with state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement to protect public servants – from local election officials to Members of Congress – from violence and threats of violence. Among other things, the President's FY 2023 Budget seeks critical resources for the U.S. Attorneys as well as the U.S. Marshals Service to safeguard the security of federal judges nationwide, including an increase of more than \$32 million to support judicial and federal courthouse security.

II. PROTECTING CIVIL RIGHTS

Protecting civil rights was a founding purpose of the Justice Department in 1870. We began our work during Reconstruction to enforce the rights promised by the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments. This required confronting the racist conduct of the Ku Klux Klan and others who used terror and violence to keep Black Americans from exercising their civil rights. Today, nearly 152 years after the Department's founding, far too many still face discrimination in voting, housing, and the criminal justice system; and disproportionately bear the brunt of the harm caused by pandemic, pollution, and climate change. Among a variety of investments, the Department's top civil rights funding priorities include:

A. Reinvigorating Civil Rights Enforcement

The Civil Rights Act of 1957 created the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division with the mission of upholding the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans. Today, the Division’s work remains vital, including bringing cases to safeguard voting rights, prosecute hate crimes, and end unlawful discrimination. The Department’s request seeks a total of \$215.2 million for the Civil Rights Division, an increase of \$52.7 million, or 32.4 percent, over the FY 2022 enacted level.

The Department’s dedication to civil rights enforcement is not limited to the Civil Rights Division, and the FY 2023 request reflects this broader commitment. The Department seeks a total of \$81.4 million – an increase of 28 percent – for the FBI’s investigations into alleged violations of the federal civil rights laws, and a total of \$42.4 million – an increase of 24 percent – for the civil rights work of the U.S. Attorneys’ offices.

B. Fostering Trust and Accountability in Law Enforcement

The Justice Department’s budget request seeks \$106.3 million in new funding to strengthen trust and accountability in law enforcement by expanding, formalizing, and managing Body Worn Camera programs for the FBI, DEA, USMS, and ATF. These cameras would be used not only by our state and local law enforcement and task force partners, but also by federal agents.

The Department’s budget request also includes a total of \$25 million for the Community Relations Service to provide mediation and conciliation services to communities impacted by conflict. The Department’s requested grant funding also supports these efforts and includes \$23 million for the COPS Just Policing Program, which will expand upon current, effective approaches within law enforcement agencies that can reform organizational culture, practices, and recruitment.

C. Expanding Access to Justice and Reforming Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

The Department’s FY 2023 request includes \$10 million to fund the newly re-established Office for Access to Justice to broaden the scope of its programs and activities, including through improving language access coordination and improving pro bono services.

The Department’s request also seeks to leverage the capacity of the federal justice system to advance innovative criminal justice reform initiatives and serve as a model for reform that is not only comprehensive in scope, but evidence-informed and high-impact. For example, the Department’s FY 2023 request seeks a total of \$760 million for juvenile justice grants. The Department also requests a total of \$409.5 million for First Step Act implementation, including \$100 million for a collaboration between the Justice Department and the Department of Labor for a national initiative to provide comprehensive workforce development services to people in the federal prison system, both during their time in BOP facilities and after they are transferred to community placement.

D. Advancing Environmental Justice and Tackling the Climate Crisis

The Justice Department is committed to implementing Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad* (January 27, 2021), which establishes a whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis and formalizes the federal government's commitment to environmental justice. To these ends, the Department's request includes a total of \$142 million – an increase of \$22 million or 18.2 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level – for the Environment and Natural Resources Division. Among other things, this funding would support the Division's efforts to combat the climate crisis, launch an Office for Environmental Justice, and execute a comprehensive environmental enforcement strategy.

III. SAFEGUARDING ECONOMIC SECURITY, FAIRNESS, AND OPPORTUNITY

A fair economy is foundational to the American dream. Fraud, theft, corruption, bribery, and anticompetitive agreements threaten the free and fair markets upon which our economy is based. They decimate the assets of individuals, organizations, and governments alike, and they increase costs for every American. Corporate crime also weakens our economic institutions by undermining public trust in the fairness of those institutions. In its pursuit of fair markets, the Justice Department will ensure that everyone in our economy competes by the same rules; that tax dollars flow to their intended recipients; and that corporate crime is deterred, detected, and prosecuted.

A. Preventing the Theft of Technology and Intellectual Property

Protecting the American people from intellectual property crimes is a priority for the Department of Justice. These crimes threaten our national security and economic security as well as public health and safety. The Justice Department is committed to deploying a whole-of-Department approach to enforcing intellectual property rights and the President's FY 2023 Budget seeks critical resources for the Criminal and the National Security Divisions, as well as the FBI and our United States Attorneys, to pursue complex intellectual property crime investigations around the world.

B. Reinvigorating Antitrust Enforcement and Consumer Protection

Antitrust and consumer protection laws are the charter of our economic liberty. The Justice Department is committed to the vigorous enforcement of these laws. Anticompetitive practices hurt the American people – producers, consumers, and workers alike. And they hurt the American economy. Too many industries have become too consolidated over time. Too many companies have pursued corporate conduct and more aggressive mergers that have made all of us vulnerable. Against this background, our antitrust enforcement efforts cannot and will not slow down. No matter the industry and no matter the company, the Justice Department will vigorously enforce our antitrust laws. We will aggressively protect consumers, safeguard competition, and work to ensure economic fairness and opportunity for all.

The Department's Antitrust Division has been underfunded for too long and has nearly 400 fewer staff today than it had in 1979. That is why we are seeking critical resources to

reinvigorate our enforcement efforts and ensure a competitive economy for all Americans. In particular, the President’s FY 2023 Budget seeks a total of \$273 million, an increase of \$80.2 million or 41.6 percent over the FY 2022 enacted level, for the Antitrust Division. These additional funds will allow the Antitrust Division to meet the challenges of its growing civil and criminal enforcement programs, including by hiring additional attorneys and support staff, and by modernizing the Antitrust Division’s information technology infrastructure to support litigation against sophisticated defendants.

In addition, the Justice Department is committed to using criminal, civil, and administrative actions to protect consumers. The Department will work to ensure the safety of food, medicines, and consumer products, and will safeguard consumer information from unlawful acquisition and use. Using our full array of civil and criminal enforcement tools, we will hold accountable those who make fraudulent or misleading representations in the marketing of goods, especially where such conduct risks consumer harm.

C. Combating Corruption and Financial Crime

Another critical focus of the Department’s budget request is investing in combating corruption and financial crime that weakens our economic institutions. The Department’s request seeks significant investments in the Consumer Protection Branch, our U.S. Attorneys’ offices, the FBI, and the Criminal Division to promote economic competition and prevent the theft of intellectual property, deter and prosecute corporate crime, protect the government against fraud, and combat corruption. The Department is specifically focused on prioritizing the prosecution of COVID-19 related fraud through its COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force.

D. Promoting the Integrity and Efficiency of the Bankruptcy System

Congress established the United States Trustee Program in 1977 to serve as the “watchdog” of our nation’s bankruptcy system. In that role, United States Trustees oversee nearly one million ongoing bankruptcy cases annually, undertake tens of thousands of civil enforcement actions, and refer thousands of criminal matters to U.S. Attorneys’ offices for investigation and prosecution each year. The President’s FY 2023 Budget requests a total of \$260 million for this important program to protect the interests of all stakeholders in the bankruptcy process by advocating for strict, equitable compliance with the law and addressing violations by debtors, creditors, and professionals alike.

E. Revitalizing Tax Enforcement

The integrity of our tax system is vital to maintaining public confidence. Honest taxpayers must be able to trust that they will not bear an undue share of the federal tax burden. The President’s FY 2023 Budget requests \$121.3 million, an increase of 4.4 percent above the FY 2022 level, for the Department’s Tax Division to support its vital mission of enforcing our tax laws fully, fairly, and consistently.

IV. ADMINISTERING JUST IMMIGRATION COURT AND CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS

The President's FY 2023 Budget requests a total of \$11.7 billion for the Department to carry out its responsibilities for administering both our nation's immigration court system and our federal correctional system.

A. Administering an Equitable and Efficient Immigration Court System

The Justice Department is responsible for equitably and efficiently administering our nation's immigration court system. The Department's FY 2023 request would strengthen our ability to apply the immigration laws justly, consistently, and in a timely fashion, while ensuring due process under the law. The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) needs more resources to address the case backlog, which has been growing for over a decade. For FY 2023, the Department requests a total of \$1.35 billion for EOIR to reduce the backlog of immigration cases. This request will allow EOIR to hire more than 1,200 new staff, including approximately 200 new immigration judges above the FY 2022 enacted level. The President's FY 2023 Budget also expands EOIR's virtual court initiative and invests new resources in legal access programming.

B. Maintaining a Safe and Humane Correctional System

Administering the federal detention and prison systems are also critical parts of the Justice Department's responsibilities. The FY 2023 funding request seeks a total of \$2.13 billion for the U.S. Marshals Service for federal prisoner detention. In addition, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is currently responsible for the custody and care of more than 150,000 Federal inmates. It is critical that prisons, detention centers, and community-based facilities are safe, humane, cost-efficient, and secure.

Adequate staffing is a prerequisite to safe and secure facilities, and we must ensure that even facilities in hard-to-recruit areas are fully staffed. To this end, the Department requests a total of \$8.18 billion for BOP to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of incarcerated individuals and correctional staff, and to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective oversight of all federal prisons and detention centers. This request would allow BOP to hire more than 700 new correctional officers and nearly 600 new First Step Act staff. These funds would also be used to support rehabilitative programming and improve conditions of confinement.

I respectfully ask for your support for the President's FY 2023 funding request as the Justice Department works to uphold the rule of law, keep our country safe, and protect civil rights for all.

Thank you.