

Nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions to be Attorney General of the United States
Questions for the Record
Submitted January 17, 2017

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR GRAHAM

1. Along with Senator Donnelly, I introduced at the end of last Congress the INVEST to Prevent Crime Act. The Act authorizes for five years a grant program focused on neighborhoods struggling to address persistent crime. Grantees will develop cross-sector partnerships between residents, local law enforcement, a research entity, and community and business partners. The partnerships will plan and implement strategies to address specific drivers of crime in their target neighborhoods. The program builds on DOJ's Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program, which has been appropriated between \$10.5M and \$18M since FY2013, and has shown very promising results in reducing crime rates.

Do you agree that building structured partnerships between community members and local police agencies could help reduce crime?

RESPONSE: Yes. As I noted in my written testimony, positive relations and great communication between the people and the police are essential for any good police department to be effective in reducing crime. We must re-establish and strengthen the partnership between federal and local officers to enhance a common and unified effort to reverse the current rising crime trends.

Do you plan to continue DOJ's support for grant programs like the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program, which are designed to reduce crime in our country's most challenging neighborhoods while improving community-police relations?

RESPONSE: I believe these programs serve important purposes, particularly given the increase in violent crime across the country and the challenges facing state and local law enforcement and the communities they protect and serve. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed as Attorney General, I will seek to best use the resources available to the Department of Justice to address violent and other crimes throughout the country, and to partner with state and local law enforcement agencies to help them address these issues. I will make funding decisions only after a careful evaluation of any current practice or program administered by the Department and the effectiveness of those practices to aid in the administration of justice. Resources are limited, however, and it would be unwise to commit to indefinitely providing a particular amount of to a single jurisdiction or for individual purposes without knowing how circumstances might change the needs or priorities in the future.