

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Jim Crowell
Director
Executive Office for United States Attorneys
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Director Crowell:

We write to you today to express our support for additional funding for the Middle District of North Carolina's United States Attorney's Office for the remainder of fiscal year 2019 and for all of fiscal year 2020. As you are likely aware, organized crime has dramatically increased in the State of North Carolina and in the Middle District in particular. This dramatic increase in criminal activity more than warrants additional resources for the Middle District, and we hope you will consider our request and make the allocation of additional resources a top priority.

In recent years, violent crime rates and trends in the Middle District have increased significantly. This is particularly true in the District's largest cities.¹ In addition to the general increase in violent crime, the Department of Justice has identified that several of the priority transnational criminal organizations are actively engaged in criminal activity in the Middle District. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration has identified the Sinaloa cartel activity in the District², and the FBI has confirmed the presence of the notorious MS-13 gang.

These dangerous criminal enterprises represent a real safety threat to the people of the Middle District and requires a strong, concerted federal effort to eradicate the threat they pose. With only approximately 59 full time staff and a population of almost 3 million people, the Middle District has only one staff member per 47,000 people. This makes the Middle District one of the least resourced United States Attorney's Office in the country, per capita.³ With the increase in violent crime and the active presence of dangerous drug cartels, we believe there is a legitimate public safety rationale which supports increasing resources in the Middle District.

United States Attorney Matt Martin has requested funding for three additional prosecutors, one criminal support personnel, and minor renovations to Middle District facilities.⁴ Two of these three prosecutors will replace prosecutors who retired at the end of the prior fiscal year, while the

¹ See Ltr. from U.S. Attn'y. Matt Martin, MDNC to Jim Crowell, Director, Executive Office of United States Attorneys (Feb. 19, 2019)

² See, e.g., DEA-ATL-BUL-088-18, "Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization shipping Guns from North Carolina to Mexico," Feb. 2018; see also DEA-ATL-BUL-053-18, "North Carolina: Local DEA Investigations Have Strong Ties to Mexico," Jan. 2018.

³ Ltr. from U.S. Attn'y. Matt Martin.

⁴ *Id.*

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

third prosecutor will be used to combat increasing violent crime and meet other Department priorities.⁵ We fully support Mr. Martin's requests and we hope you will provide the requested funding as soon as possible.

We recognize the pressures your office faces in allocating resources to all United States Attorneys, and we are committed to working with you to secure increased congressional appropriations for the requested resources. However, in the interim, we believe the unique challenges in the Middle District more than warrant an increased administrative allocation for fiscal years 2019 and 2020. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact either Ann Woods Hawks with Senator Burr at (202-224-3154), or Brad Watts with Senator Tillis at (202-224-6342).

Sincerely,



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator

⁵ *Id.*