



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Attorney General

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General

202 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassely
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassely:

I am writing to recommend an extraordinary Virginian and patriot, Terrance C. "Terry" Cole as the next Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Terry has over 28 years of law enforcement experience, 22 years of which were with the DEA. For the past several years he has served as the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security. As the Attorney General of Virginia, I worked with Secretary Cole on a regular basis to keep Virginians safe. He has been innovative, dedicated and relentless in overseeing 11 public safety agencies and more than 19,000 employees in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

When the Youngkin Administration took office in January of 2022, Virginia was facing a 20 year high in the murder rate and record levels of violent crime. Secretary Cole worked alongside the Office of the Attorney General to implement "Operation Ceasefire", a comprehensive strategy to tackle gun violence in Virginia's 13 most violent cities. Through intelligence, interdiction, prevention and targeted prosecution we have seen our murder rate in our targeted cities drop by 66% and over a 30% drop in the murder rate statewide. Operation Ceasefire would not have been successful if not for Secretary Cole's partnership on this critical mission. Our holistic approach to combating addiction has seen over a 40% drop in addiction deaths in Virginia from our 2021 peak.

I have attended numerous briefings and planning sessions with Secretary Cole and appreciate his tireless work in protecting Virginians and ability to process data and information in an applied manner to achieve strategic success. Terry brings his decades of law enforcement experience every day in his work where he supports collaboration but is not afraid to make the tough judgment calls needed to complete the mission. Terry Cole's resume speaks for himself, but I have personally found him to be a fantastic leader with sound judgment and a passion for keeping Americans safe from the scourge of fentanyl and illegal narcotics.

Terry Cole believes that the Cartels are some of the most dangerous criminal enterprises on the planet and his first hand experience in Mexico provides him the unique experience necessary to defeat them. He possesses every quality of loyalty, resolve and good judgment to excel as the next Administrator of the DEA. Secretary Terry Cole in law enforcement is unparalleled, and I am confident that he will make every American safer in this role.

Yours in Freedom,

A blue ink signature of Jason S. Miyares, written in a cursive style.

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General of Virginia