

February 17, 2025



United States Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

VCU Police

224 E. Broad Street
Box 842024
Richmond, VA 23284-2024

Re: Nomination – Letter of Support

804 828-1196
Fax: 804 828-1199
VOICE/EMERGENCY:
804 828-1234
VOICE/NON-EMERGENCY
804 828-1196

I am writing in full support of the Presidential nomination and appointment of Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Terrence Cole to Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

VCU TDD
Voice: 800-828-1140
TTY: 800-828-1120

I currently serve as the Associate Vice President of Emergency Services and Public Safety at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond Virginia. For the past 15 years, I have overseen one of the largest campus law enforcement agencies in the nation. I have over 40 years of municipal, federal, and campus law enforcement experience. I have worked extensively earlier in my career with DEA as a Task Force Officer in the Richmond Field Division. During my tenure at VCU, I have worked with several Secretaries of Public Safety and Governors administrations. Secretary Cole, by far, has been the most actively engaged Secretary with local and campus law enforcement. Secretary Cole is focused on supporting local and campus law enforcement and has provided unprecedented support and assistance for Virginia law enforcement agencies. The coordination and collaboration amongst agencies has increased significantly due to the ongoing efforts of the Secretary's administration. One recent example in Virginia, was the successful navigation of the Pro-Palestine encampments at Virginia's institutions of higher education (IHE).

There have been several ongoing collaborative efforts focused on making Virginia safer, these include violence reduction initiatives in Virginia cities with the highest rates of violence. These initiatives have also afforded Virginia agencies with technology to reduce crime with Real Time crime centers. Ongoing efforts have been in place to reduce Fentanyl trafficking in Virginia, as well as, Fentanyl messaging campaigns to raise awareness of Fentanyl poisoning for communities and youth. Additional efforts are focusing on human trafficking and sex trafficking in Virginia.

Law enforcement retention, and levels of interest in law enforcement positions, have dramatically decreased since 2020. Secretary Cole has led an initiative in Virginia ensuring law enforcement officers are properly compensated and has worked with the General Assembly introducing bills that support Virginia law enforcement in addition to a State wide initiative to recruit law enforcement officers to Virginia.

Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Terrence C. Cole is a committed career public servant dedicated to upholding and protecting the constitutional rights of Americans and ensuring that communities are safe. These efforts have been clearly demonstrated in Virginia.

I fully support the appointment of Terrence C. Cole as Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Respectfully,


John Venuti
AVP of Emergency Services and Public Safety, VCU and VCU Health