



Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies

July 10, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

I am writing on behalf of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA) in support of the nomination of Christopher Wray to be the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. ASCIA is a professional association representing the lead statewide criminal investigative agencies in 46 states.

The FBI is an essential federal partner for ASCIA members in our daily work of conducting criminal investigations. At the same time, state investigative agencies routinely collaborate with the FBI on federal cases, including as members of Joint Terrorism Task Forces and other federal task forces. Leadership from the top of the FBI is critical to ensuring that the bureau's special agents in charge and other personnel in the field are working closely with state and local law enforcement at every opportunity.

ASCIA's Executive Board had an opportunity to discuss Mr. Wray's views on collaboration directly with him by phone and were encouraged to hear his thoughts. Former Director Comey placed a priority on ensuring tighter and more routine engagement with state and local law enforcement, and our members noticed significant improvements on that front during his tenure. We look forward to working in a similar fashion with Mr. Wray if he is confirmed. This will be especially important given the very active and diffuse threat environment Americans face, including threats from homegrown violent extremists.

ASCIA members are especially focused on issues related to forensic science, the impact of technology on our ability to access digital evidence with lawful court orders, information sharing and analytical collaboration through the national network of fusion centers, and enhancing capabilities to detect, investigate and share information regarding cyber incidents. Our members manage more than half of all the forensic laboratories nationwide, and we directly oversee 38 of the 50 state fusion centers. We also handle the majority of officer-involved shooting investigations across the country and have a particular interest in voluntary joint efforts with the FBI to collect information on law enforcement use-of-force incidents to ensure the public is accurately informed.

Mr. Wray demonstrated competent leadership during his earlier stint in government leading the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice as an Assistant Attorney General. His strong record, his even temperament, and his commitment to collaboration bode well for his ability to lead the FBI.

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www.ascia.org

Thank you for taking the time to consider our support. Please contact ASCIA's Executive Director Bob McConnell at executive.director@ascia.org if you have questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Gwyn".

Mark Gwyn
President, ASCIA
Director
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation