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February 14, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police endorses the selection of The Honorable Terry Cole, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, for the position of Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Secretary Cole is an excellent collaborator with Virginia federal, state, local and campus law enforcement agencies on initiatives to eradicate the plague of lethal drugs, such as opiates and particularly fentanyl, from the Commonwealth. This collaboration is evident in his promotion and support of Operation Ceasefire to reduce violent crime and Operation FREE. His leadership of the Operation FREE initiative in Virginia resulted in the seizure of tens of thousands of pounds of illicit drugs — including more than 70 million lethal doses of fentanyl. These programs have bi-partisan support focusing on public safety and crime prevention.

During his 22-year tenure with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Secretary Cole advanced through the ranks, including tours in Oklahoma, New York, Texas, and Washington D.C., as well as foreign assignments in Colombia, Afghanistan, Mexico, and the Middle East. Before joining the DEA, Secretary Cole served as a Naval Academy Blue and Gold Officer.

Secretary Cole is an advocate for law enforcement, supporting bills to improve pay and strengthen officer retention. We believe he is an excellent choice to serve as DEA Administrator and that he will have a real impact on driving down America's illegal drug crisis.

Sincerely,

Chief Scott Booth
President

Dana Schrad
Executive Director