

The Honorable Donald J. Trump

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Secretary of State Marco Rubio

U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Attorney General Pam Bondi

U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Continued Federal Support for the Attorney General Alliance Binational State Attorneys General Exchange and Training Program with Mexico & the National Association of Attorneys General Costa Rican Judicial Police Award

Dear Mr. President, Secretary Rubio, and General Bondi:

We, the President of the National Association of Attorneys General and the Chair of the Attorney General Alliance, along with our fellow State and Territory Attorneys General write to express our strong support for resuming and continuing funding for the Attorney General Alliance (AGA) and the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) *Binational State Attorneys General Exchange and Training* program with Mexico, which operates under the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL); as well as the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) 1-year international award with the U.S. Department of State offering technical assistance and support to the Costa Rican Judicial Police under the Costa Rica Attorney General Office.

As Attorneys General, we see firsthand the impact of transnational crime—particularly drug trafficking, violent crime, and money laundering—on our communities. The AGA and NAAG programs are vital in addressing these threats through enhanced collaboration and by strengthening Mexico and Costa Rica's legal systems. Focusing first on AGA's Binational State Attorneys General Exchange Program, this initiative, facilitated by the AGA and involving state and territorial Attorneys General, brings together U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials, including prosecutors, investigators, forensic experts, and criminal analysts. By providing training in investigative techniques, legal strategies, and trial advocacy, the program enhances cross-border cooperation and helps dismantle criminal networks. Since its inception in 2008, 38 states and three territories have participated and hosted delegations, with the most recent event in Louisiana bringing together officials from several Mexican state Offices of the Attorney General.

Mexico's 2008 constitutional reforms introduced the adversarial system with oral trials, strengthened due process protections, and improved judicial transparency, all of which help combat corruption and enhance public trust in their criminal justice system. The AGA directly supports these reforms, equipping Mexican prosecutors with essential tools and training. Since 2008, the program has trained over 74,000 Mexican law enforcement officials both in-person and online, with nearly one-third—approximately 25,000—trained in just the last three and a half years. This demonstrates the program's growing demand and effectiveness.

However, drug cartels continue to resist these reforms, challenging prosecutors and law enforcement officials. The training offered through this program not only provides critical legal skills but also demonstrates how an efficient judicial system functions. It is a critical opportunity for the United States to have a direct influence on Mexico's criminal justice system. A loss of funding would be a serious setback, weakening prosecutorial capabilities and disrupting the progress made in strengthening Mexico's system.

Mexican prosecutors and law enforcement officials involved in this program have shown remarkable courage. Many have been threatened, targeted, and even murdered for their commitment to the rule of law. Some have shared their experiences with us, revealing scars from bullet wounds sustained in the line of duty. Their families live under constant threat simply for their dedication to justice. Supporting them strengthens the rule of law across our shared border, creating a safer and more stable region.

NAAG offers a similar program through its grant award in Costa Rica. The work of the Attorneys General through the NAAG program supports building the Costa Rican justice system and improves ethics and transparency, which in turn directly benefits the United States. Continuing the essential work underwritten by this grant helps to reduce transnational crime, corruption, and deficient investigative and vulnerable judicial practices in Costa Rica, all of which ultimately can and will have deleterious effects on the United States. Strengthening Costa Rica's justice system and supporting Costa Rican justice sector reform also aids in protecting the security of our borders.

These programs enhance Mexico and Costa Rica's ability to investigate and prosecute crime, improving internal security and, by extension, U.S. national security. It also promotes cross-border relationships, communication between law enforcement agencies, and long-term cooperation, which are critical to fighting border crime. These programs' unique benefits and long-term impact cannot easily be replicated. Losing them would undermine years of progress and degrade the safety of our communities.

For these reasons, we, the Attorneys General of our respective States and Territories as identified below, respectfully urge your Administration to continue investing in these essential programs. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



John Formella
President
National Association of Attorneys General
New Hampshire Attorney General



Treg R. Taylor
Chair
Attorney General Alliance
Alaska Attorney General



Lynn Fitch
Co-Chair AGA Rule of Law
Mississippi Attorney General



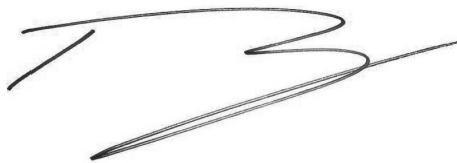
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