

CARLOS CURBELO
26TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

WEB PAGE:
www.curbelo.house.gov



1429 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2778

12851 SW 42ND STREET
SUITE 131
MIAMI, FL 33175
(305) 222-0160

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

In recent months, the Miami-Dade community I am privileged to represent in Congress has experienced a steady and disconcerting rise in gun violence. According to *The Miami Herald*, since January 2015, close to four dozen children or teenagers have been murdered as a result of gunfire, with countless more being wounded. These tragedies have taken place predominately in poor neighborhoods. The senseless shootings have left both the aggrieved families and their neighbors emotionally devastated. As they continue to grapple with the horrifying experience of losing loved ones, we as a community have united in the call for combating gun violence.

The local police forces throughout Miami-Dade County, while performing admirably, need assistance. Several agencies have applied for and received federal grants through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), but we are looking for additional resources to mitigate the recent spike in gun violence.

It is our understanding the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the Office of Justice Programs administers the Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance (EFLEA) Program. This program, since 1984, has been used to assist state and local governments with unexpected law enforcement emergencies. The EFLEA Program authorizes the Attorney General to provide funds, equipment, training, intelligence, and personnel to help alleviate emergency situations, much like what we are experiencing in Miami-Dade County. As the Department of Justice reviews the needs of communities across the country in which to make EFLEA funds available, we ask that you give full and fair consideration, in accordance with all rules and regulations, to the police forces in Miami-Dade County.

The communities of South Florida have dedicated and thoughtful leaders like State Representative Kionne McGhee and Miami-Dade Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, who have been at the forefront of our efforts to combat this regrettable wave of gun violence. Through constant pleading for peace and standing as pillars of hope, Messrs. Carvalho and McGhee and our local law enforcement leaders are calling for additional resources from programs like COPS and EFLEA. As a community, we will continue to work towards making South Florida a safe place for families to grow and thrive. I appreciate your careful consideration in bringing the appropriate attention to the urgent situation in Miami-Dade County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos Curbelo".

Carlos Curbelo