

WASHINGTON- Today Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee urging them to restore funding for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne JAG) in a fiscal 2008 emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

One of the toughest jobs law enforcement and firefighters have is responding to a meth lab. This week Congressman Terry got the opportunity to visit the Drug Enforcement Administration training facility in Quantico, Va. The training is specific to local law enforcement agencies, specifically those who respond to clandestine laboratories where meth is made at the local level.

"It is devastating that the Byrne JAG grants were cut by over two-thirds this year. These funds are critical to fighting drugs and crime. Because drugs are manufactured in one state, moved across other states for final use in yet another, a coordinated federal effort to aide and assist local law enforcement in the fight against this threat is necessary. If funding is not restored most of these programs will cease to exist and will leave our communities vulnerable to the presence and availability of illegal drugs. The inter-state nature of drug trafficking demands a federal response," said Congressman Terry.

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman along with 33 Governors from across the country also wrote a letter urging House and Senate leadership to restore funding to the Byrne JAG program.

"I applaud Governor Heineman and his efforts to fight for money that is so gravely needed in Nebraska. I thank him for standing up to protect our citizens and I want him to know his voice is heard in Washington," said Congressman Terry.

