



September 12, 2012

U.S. Department of Justice Announces Delay in Action on SCAAP Reimbursement Policies

CSAC is very pleased to report that the Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice of Assistance has announced a one-year delay in its decision to eliminate SCAAP payments to jurisdictions for the costs of incarcerating inmates whose immigration statuses are “unknown.” Attached is a copy of the DOJ’s letter to Rep. Mike Honda – one of California’s leading congressional advocates on this issue – outlining the Department’s rationale for postponing the SCAAP policy change for one year.

Pursuant to the attached letter, the delay is intended to give local jurisdictions additional time to ‘work collaboratively with DHS to improve local processes for detainee identification, in anticipation of discontinuing payments for “unknowns” in the future.’

CSAC and its federal lobbyists have been actively involved in advocacy efforts on this ill-conceived policy change. As counties are undoubtedly aware, had DOJ’s new reimbursement policy gone into effect, our state’s counties would have seen their SCAAP allocations cut by nearly 50 percent.

While this victory is extraordinary, our advocacy efforts will continue unabated, up to and including monitoring DOJ’s future actions closely and opposing this same policy should it resurface next year.

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