

TWO IS NOT BETTER THAN ONE

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Department of Justice
- **FUMBLE:** Duplicative bulletproof vest programs
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Streamline federal programs to reduce overhead and administrative costs to the programs, allowing more federal funds to be used for bulletproof vests instead of bureaucracy

The safety of law enforcement officers who patrol the streets of American communities to protect families is immensely important. One of the best ways the federal government can help them stay safe is to ensure they all have bulletproof vests—a costly but necessary piece of equipment. Unfortunately the best intentions have actually resulted in multiple federal programs to fund and access bulletproof vests for law enforcement officers.

The DOJ's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program³⁶⁶ and the Bulletproof Vest Program (BVP)³⁶⁷ both provide bulletproof vests to state and local law enforcement through grants to local law enforcement entities. In its FY 2016 budget request, the DOJ requested to designate the BVP

as part of the Byrne JAG program instead of BVP representing a separate line-item in the budget with separate costs for overhead and procedures to administer the program.³⁶⁸ By removing the administrative costs from one program, more money would actually be available to put bulletproof vests on law enforcement officers who need them.

RECOVERY

Congress must find ways to streamline programs and reduce duplication in the federal government. Providing bulletproof vests to American police officers is a good thing, but it does not take two programs to do it. Having two programs that provide the same thing is not fiscally responsible.

For more information, please visit:

[CRS Report: FY2016 Appropriations for the Department of Justice](#)
[DOJ: 2016 Proposed Appropriations Language](#)