LAMAR S. SMITH, Texas
CHAIRMAN

JOHN CONYERS, JR., Michigan
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515–6216
One Hundred Twelfth Congress

September 9, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

Last evening, before a Joint Session of Congress, President Obama called on Congress to hold hearings and pass the American Jobs Act, his proposal to create much-needed jobs for Americans. I am sure you share his goal to "put more people back to work and more money in the pockets of those who are working" while providing "a jolt to an economy that has stalled."

In pertinent part, the President stated that the American Jobs Act will create new jobs for first responders. Specifically, the Act will invest $5 billion to support the hiring and retention of public safety and first responder personnel. I write to ask that you immediately convene hearings and move legislation that can implement this priority. Among programs that should be considered at these hearings and be the subject of legislation is the COPS Hiring Program, which has funded the hiring of more than 122,000 state and local police officers and sheriff's deputies in communities across America. As you know, this program helps keep our communities safe by putting police officers on the street where they are most needed.

The Judiciary Committee can play a significant role in creating much-needed jobs for Americans. I hope you share my urgency, and that of the President, regarding the need to immediately hold hearings on programs that support the hiring and retention of public safety and first responder personnel.

Sincerely,

John Conyers, Jr.

John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member