

March 17, 2026

Dear Congressman Moore:

Thank you for your service and for your continued commitment to the community of Baldwin County, Alabama.

I write to express the Baldwin County Commission's support for a \$891,300.00 **FY 2027 Community Project Funding** request for the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit, which is in your district. The requested funding will ensure investigators have the tools necessary to combat online child sexual exploitation.

The Baldwin County Sheriff's Office plays a central role in leading and coordinating child exploitation investigations in your district. The requested technology upgrades will be housed and managed locally, directly benefiting the work of the investigators in the agency.

This project funding is eligible under the Department of Justice's **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)** account and aligns with DOJ's mission to strengthen community policing through modern investigative resources.

Investigators are facing an overwhelming and growing volume of cases involving child sexual abuse material (CSAM), child trafficking, and sextortion. At the same time, the cost of forensic software, necessary hardware, and secure data storage has continued to rise in recent years.

The Baldwin County Sheriff's Office ICAC Unit has partnered with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's ICAC Task Force for nearly ten years as an affiliated investigative agency. Our personnel routinely work alongside the task force on complex investigations involving online child exploitation, digital evidence analysis, and victim identification. From our firsthand experience, ICAC funding directly enables the specialized tools, training, and collaborative resources necessary to identify offenders, rescue victims, and safeguard our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

JAMES E. BALL, Chairman
Baldwin County Commission