



# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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[www.westernsheriffs.org](http://www.westernsheriffs.org)

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Laramie County, WY

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## WSSA RESOLUTION #2016-03 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM

**Whereas:** Western States Sheriffs' Association represents the Sheriffs of its member States and,

**Whereas:** Many of the Association member agencies work in partnership with the Department of Justice in task forces aimed at gang violence, other violent offenders, terrorism prevention, and/or drug trafficking and,

**Whereas:** These task forces and the participating agencies make cases using equipment, training and other resources that are supplied by the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program and,

**Whereas:** Sheriffs have a reduced ability to sponsor task force costs through other funding sources and,

**Whereas:** Asset forfeiture is a judicial function which gives defendants due process and has the potential to seize assets that are the result of or involved with criminal activity and,

**Whereas:** The seizing of assets from criminal activity further limits criminals and criminal organizations from furthering their illegal enterprises and,

**Whereas:** Seized assets alone fund the asset forfeiture program and current Federal Law prohibits using asset forfeiture dollars to supplant budgets that are otherwise funded;

**Therefore Be It Resolved:** The Western States Sheriffs' Association members call on the United States Congress to repeal the portions of the Bipartisan Budget act of 2015 (P.L. 114-74) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-113) dealing with the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program, restoring funding to this program as it was prior to either act.

**Hereby resolved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2016 at the annual conference of the Western States Sheriffs' Association.**

**Sheriff Dave Brown, President**  
**Western States Sheriffs' Association**

**James F. Pond, Sheriff (Ret.)**  
**Executive Director, WSSA**