

## SEARCH Resolution 09-51

Of the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

April 15, 2009

### **The National Criminal History Improvement Program**

**WHEREAS**, the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), operated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), has compiled a record of extraordinary success in helping States to improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of their automated, criminal history record systems;

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, with limited funding, has been widely recognized for its extraordinary efficiency, effectiveness and accomplishments in the NCHIP program;

**WHEREAS**, the States, including the state repositories, have devoted massive efforts and resources over many years toward building automated, criminal history record databases that are accurate, complete and reliable;

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the efforts of BJS and the States, there continue to be significant shortfalls in arrest reporting; in disposition reporting; and, as well, in accuracy and data quality;

**WHEREAS**, the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the nation's criminal history record system has a more important and comprehensive impact today than ever before, including for law enforcement investigations; for officer safety; for sentencing and other criminal justice purposes; for expungement and other reentry strategies; for homeland security and anti-terrorism purposes; for public non-criminal justice purposes, including security clearances and employment suitability; for private sector risk management purposes; and for research and statistical programs that provide critical guidance for justice assistance decisions and for shaping law and policy; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years the NCHIP program has been significantly underfunded, to the point that continued under-funding is likely to have an adverse impact on the accuracy, completeness and reliability of records in the nation's criminal history record system;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, that:

"The Administration and the Congress are urged to give added priority to the Bureau of Justice Statistics for the operation of the National Criminal History Improvement Program and that the Administration, the Department of Justice and the Congress work together to restore NCHIP funding to at least the level of FY '05 appropriations."