



July 12, 2019

Dean Sally Wallace
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Dean Wallace:

I am writing in support of the Georgia Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) program, which is one of the research centers in your School. From articles and news reports that I have read, I understand that the GILEE program is under attack by students at Georgia State University and by political groups in the Atlanta area.

I am currently a professor of criminology and sociology at Penn State University, but I was formerly a professor of psychology and, by courtesy, a professor of criminal justice at Georgia State University. Thus, I have had some familiarity with the program for many years.

As a researcher who has worked both with state agencies in Georgia and Pennsylvania and with the U.S. Sentencing Commission in Washington, I am keenly aware of the importance of sharing theoretical and practical knowledge with policy makers. Thus, I am a strong supporter of programs in which information and decision strategies are discussed, critiqued, and improved.

The GILEE program, which focuses on difficult, sensitive, and crucial aspects of combatting crime and ensuring public safety, has promoted this type of critical discussion among academics and policing professionals in more than two dozen countries and more than two dozen states. That sort of interchange is exactly the sort of partnership that is the mission of urban universities like Georgia State and public affairs programs like the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

Sincerely,

Barry Ruback, J.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Criminology and Sociology