



A CAMPAIGN OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION
COALITION

— the collective voice of more than 350 organizations nationwide —

March 17, 2016

Dear Member of the Commerce, Justice & Science Appropriations Subcommittee:

On behalf of the Act4JJ Campaign, we are writing to urge you to include adequate funding for critical juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs in the final Fiscal Year 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill.

As the leaders on the CJS Appropriations bill, we encourage you to **work to secure the highest 302 (b) allocation possible** and, within that amount, consider funding to support juvenile justice programs that:

- Protect youth in custody from exposure to adult jails and adult offenders;
- Ensure youth who commit status offenses like running away from home or skipping school remain in their community, not in detention;
- Promote equity by eliminating racial and ethnic disparities and ensuring that youth of color are not unnecessarily system involved;
- Support programming for girls, Tribal youth, and youth with disabilities;
- Build effective prevention programs in the community to divert children from the justice system;
- Provide trauma-informed care and adopt evidence-based practices;
- Provide indigent defense to youth; and
- Provide training for juvenile court judges

Federal investments play an essential role in state juvenile justice efforts to protect youth and promote safe communities. Overall federal support of key juvenile justice programs has declined by more than 50 percent since fiscal year 2002, and we are concerned about the impact that any further reductions in funding would have on states' ability to serve youth.

Cuts over the past decade have weakened the federal state partnership and stymied national, state, and local progress in this area. A survey by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice found that 89% of member states reported that due to federal cuts, **fewer youth will have access to**

services designed to keep them from engaging in unlawful behaviors and penetrating deeper into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Since this survey was administered, funding has continued to drop, adding additional strain on the states.

We encourage you to work to restore some of the critical funding that has been lost over the last decade and include the levels of investment recommended by the Administration in its FY 2017 budget proposal. These levels reflect authorizers' recommendations included in pending legislation to reauthorize the JJDPA and would begin to restore funding cut over the past several years. At a minimum, appropriators should reject any further reductions from FY16 levels. Any less would move even further away from the targeted federal involvement that has historically provided critical national leadership to states in preventing youth from entering the justice system.

The Act4JJ Campaign urges you to consider these critical supports for youth and communities in this year's CJS Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Children and Youth
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
African American Juvenile Justice Project
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
Amachi Pittsburgh
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of University Women of New York State
American Civil Liberties Union
American Psychological Association
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
A World Fit For Kids
Barton Child Law and Policy Center, Emory Law School
Boys Town
BreakOUT!
Child Welfare League of America
Campaign for Youth Justice
Center for Children's Law and Policy
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Children's Advocacy Alliance (Nevada)
Children's Campaign
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Law Center, Inc. (Kentucky)
Children's Leadership Council

Church Women United in New York State
Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Coalition on Human Needs
Collaborative Center for Justice
Colorado Alternate Defense Counsel
Colorado Juvenile Defender Center
Columbia Legal Services (Washington)
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Correctional Association of New York
Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators
Criminalization of Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
DC Lawyers for Youth
Education Equals Making Community Connections
Every Child Matters
Family League of Baltimore
Family Services of Greater Waterbury (Connecticut)
FemaleNOTFeemale
Forum for Youth Investment
Foster Family-based Treatment Association
Franciscans for Justice
Franklin County Public Defender Office (Ohio)
Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Futures Without Violence
Girls Inc.
God's Will in Action
Healthy Teen Network
Hetrick-Martin Institute
Integrated Community Solutions, Inc. (Minnesota)
International Community Corrections Association
Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Justice For Families
Justice Policy Institute
Juvenile Division of the Allegheny County Public Defender Office
Juvenile Division of the 14th Circuit Public Defender Office
Juvenile Justice Coalition
Juvenile Law Center
Kentucky Council of Churches
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center
Korean Resource Center
Law Office of the Montgomery County, Ohio Public Defenders
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

LifeBridge
Long Island Coalition for the Homeless
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
Lutheran Services in America
Medical Mission Sisters
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (Minnesota)
Metropolitan Nashville Public Defender's Office
Michigan's Children
Middlesex County Human Services Advisory Council (New Jersey)
Mommieactivist and sons
NAACP
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Council on Crime and Delinquency
National Criminal Justice Association
National Crittenton Foundation
National Disability Rights Network
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Juvenile Defender Center
National Juvenile Justice Network
National Korean American Services & Education Consortium
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Network for Youth
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
National PTA
National Women's Law Center
New England Juvenile Defender Center
New Jersey Parents Caucus
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
New Mexico Voices for Children
Office of the Ohio Public Defender
Open City Advocates
Oregon Coalition for Equal Access for Girls

Pace Center for Girls in Florida
Pacific Juvenile Defender Center
Partnership for America's Children
PAXIS Institute
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
People Demanding Action
Polaris
Pretrial Justice Institute
Public Justice Center
Public Science Project
Rights4Girls
Sands House Inc.
School Social Work Association of America
Sentencing Project
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity Western Province Leadership
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Community Research and Action
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southern Center for Human Rights
SparkAction
Stop Child Predators
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
TASH
TeamChild
Texans Care for Children
Texas Appleseed
Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
The ARC of the United States
The LawMobile
True Colors Fund
University of Michigan Juvenile Justice Clinic
University of North Carolina Law Youth Justice Clinic
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Voices for Vermont's Children
Voices for Virginia's Children
W. Haywood Burns Institute
Washington Defender Association
Westchester Children's Association (New York)
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Witness to Mass Incarceration

Women Who Never Give Up
YMCA of the USA
Youth Justice & Equity Council
Youth Represent (New York)
Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project (Pennsylvania)
Youth Villages