September 14, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
233 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi,

September 7 marked the 44th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA). National PTA was excited to see the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (H.R. 1809) and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act (S. 860) pass their respective chambers in 2017. We are confident that these two strongly aligned, bipartisan JJDPA bills can be reconciled and passed into law. We urge you to take the swiftest path forward to JJDPA reauthorization by supporting the House-passed JJDPA reauthorization bill with a Senate amendment.

The JJDPA represents a true partnership between the federal government and states and localities to protect children in the juvenile justice system, effectively address high-risk and delinquent behavior and improve community safety. The law was last reauthorized in 2002, making it over a decade overdue for reauthorization.

National PTA has long advocated for policies that prevent children and youth from entering the juvenile justice system and protecting those currently in the system. We believe that students should spend their time learning in schools, not confined in jails.

National PTA is pleased that both the House and Senate JJDPA reauthorization bills strengthen the core requirements of JJDPA, promote community-based alternatives to detention, and encourage family engagement in the development of state plans and the delivery of treatment and services. These much-needed improvements to the JJDPA are essential to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.
Let us not reach the end of the 115th Congress without reauthorizing this important piece of legislation that protects children in the juvenile justice system and creates safer communities. We urge you to reauthorize this important law as soon as possible by supporting the House passed JJDPA reauthorization bill with a Senate amendment. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
James L. Accomando
President
National PTA

[Signature]
Nathan R. Monell, CAE
Executive Director
National PTA

CC: The Honorable Chuck Grassley
    The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
    The Honorable Jason Lewis
    The Honorable Bobby Scott