

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 (JJDP). 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 JJDP bills can be reconciled and passed into law. We urge you to take the swiftest path forward to JJDP reauthorization by supporting the House-passed JJDP reauthorization bill with a Senate amendment.

The JJDP 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 JJDP reauthorization bills strengthen the core requirements of JJDP, 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 JJDP 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 JJDP A reauthorization bill with a Senate amendment. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James L. Accomando
President
National PTA



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