



November 8, 2021

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Shaheen, Chairman Cartwright, and Ranking Members Moran and Aderholt:

The undersigned members of the Act 4 JJ Coalition, a national network of youth justice organizations, urge Congress to fully fund critical juvenile justice programs at the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in its final FY22 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill. **Federal investments play an essential role in state and community-based juvenile justice efforts to protect youth, prevent delinquency, and promote safe communities.**

We are supportive and appreciative of proposed increased funding for juvenile justice programs in both chambers' CJS appropriation bills, as the funding will be critical to the full and robust implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), as well as provide support for critical youth prevention services, due process, and state planning to capture savings from youth prison closures and expand access to more effective community-based alternatives. As you finalize FY22 appropriations, the undersigned organizations strongly urge you to allocate the following funding requests, including:

\$148 million dollars for Titles II & V of the JJDP Act in FY22 budget, including:

- **\$80,000,000 as appropriated by both the Senate and House FY22 CJS appropriations bills** to carry out programs under the Charles Grassley Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program, Title II of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Title II of JJDP provides federal funding to states to promote delinquency prevention and assist them to comply with federally-mandated core requirements designed to protect children from the dangers of placement in adult jails and lockups; keep status offenders/non-delinquent children out of locked custody; and address the racial and ethnic disparities faced by youth of color in the justice system.

- **\$68,000,000** to carry out delinquency prevention programs under Title V of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Twenty percent of which should go to Tribal youth programs.

Title V is the only federal program that provides delinquency prevention funding at the local level to reach at-risk youth and help keep them out of the juvenile justice system. The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 renames this title “Incentive Grants for Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (PROMISE)” and expands the uses of this grant program to include 29 funding areas, and establishes local youth councils to develop prevention programming that ensures needs of at-risk youth are being met.

\$50,000,000 as appropriated by both the Senate and House FY22 CJS appropriations bills, to support a new OJJDP initiative providing grants to states to capture savings from the closure of failed youth prisons to expand access to more effective community-based services. These grants would support a robust planning and consultation process to 1) help redirect state resources freed up by facility closures to support more effective and cost efficient community-based alternatives, and 2) address economic concerns such as the repurposing of facilities and the re-employment of facility workers.

It is critical that Congress fully fund JJDPA programs, and other critical youth justice initiatives in order for implementation of the new requirements of the law to be successful. Congress must affirm this important federal-state partnership to protect children and to invest in innovative and cost-effective reforms that keep youth out of trouble and communities safe. Additionally, Congress must help states achieve system transformation and increased public safety by capturing savings from the closure of failed youth facilities in order to expand proven effective and cost efficient programs for young people, families, and their communities.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

National Groups:

African American Juvenile Justice Project
Afterschool Alliance
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Youth Policy Forum
Anti-Recidivism Coalition
Association of Children's Residential Centers (ACRC)
Center for Children's Law and Policy
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Columbia Justice Lab
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants)
Dream Corps JUSTICE



First Focus Campaign for Children
Girls Inc.
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders
Human Rights for Kids
Justice for Families
Justice Policy Institute
Juvenile Law Center
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
MomsRising
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Center for Youth Law
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
National Crittenton
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Juvenile Defender Center
National Juvenile Justice Network
National Network for Youth, Inc.
National PTA
Results for America
Rights4Girls
R Street Institute
SparkAction
Strategies for Youth
The Forum for Youth Investment
Union for Reform Judaism
W. Haywood Burns Institute
YouthBuild USA
Youth Collaboratory
Youth Villages
Youth First Initiative
YMCA of the USA

STATES:

California

Arts for Healing & Justice Network
SAY San Diego (Social Advocates for Youth)
John Burton Advocates for Youth

Connecticut

Connecticut Justice Alliance



Colorado

Concerned citizen/Grandma
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program

District of Columbia

Open City Advocates

Hawaii

Office of Youth Services

Illinois

Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative

Iowa

Iowa's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council

Louisiana

Louisiana Center for Children's Rights

Maine

Maine Inside Out
Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (Maine JJAG)

Michigan

Michigan Center for Youth Justice

Missouri

Metropolitan Congregations United

Mississippi

Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (SAG)



Nevada

Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)

New Jersey

JJDP

Trenton Circus Squad

Trenton Music Makers

United Way of Greater Union County

Purpose At Heart And Euphrates Project Inc

Motylek, LLC dba Family Transition Support Services

Firth Youth Center

North Carolina

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Ohio

Schubert Center for Child Studies, Case Western Reserve University

Juvenile Justice Coalition

Rhode Island

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

South Carolina

South Carolina Governors Juvenile Justice Advisory Council

Virginia

RISE for Youth

Wyoming

Wyoming Children's Law Center, Inc.

CC: House and Senate Appropriations Committee Members