



A CAMPAIGN OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION
COALITION

— the collective voice of more than 300 organizations nationwide —

April 3, 2017

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 and in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2018 proposal.

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 children in need of services who run away from home or skip 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 to the lowest levels in more than a decade, and we are concerned about the impact that any further reductions in funding would have on states' ability to serve youth.

Cuts have weakened the federal state partnership and stymied national, state, and local progress in this area. Many states have already had to significantly reduce services and further

cuts would result in **fewer youth having access to services** designed to keep them from engaging in unlawful behaviors and penetrating deeper into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Speaker Paul Ryan's Opportunity Agenda recognizes the importance of this federal investment in helping states improve their juvenile justice systems with a focus on the education and rehabilitation of at-risk youth. The value of this federal-state partnership is also reflected in the bi-partisan, bi-cameral effort by authorizers to renew and strengthen federal juvenile justice programs in Congress this year.

We encourage you to restore some of the critical juvenile justice funding that has been lost since 2002 and, at a minimum, maintain FY2017 levels included in the current Continuing Resolution for the balance of FY2017 and for FY2018. 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,

7th Direction

Afterschool Alliance

American Civil Liberties Union

Anti-Recidivism Coalition

B'More Awesome Inc.

Boys Town

Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

Center for Law and Social Policy

Campaign for Youth Justice

Center for Children's Law and Policy

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

Child Welfare League of America

Children & Family Council for Prevention Programs (VT-SAG)

Children's Advocacy Institute

Children's Defense Fund - New York

Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana

Church of Scientology National Affairs Office

Coalition for Juvenile Justice

Crittenton Centers

DC Lawyers for Youth

Delaware Center for Justice

Family Focused Treatment Association
Forum for Youth Investment
Friends of Long Creek Youth Development Center (Maine)
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Futures Without Violence
Girls Inc.
Healthy Teen Network
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Justice for Families
Justice Policy Institute
Juvenile Justice Coalition (Ohio)
Kansas Appleseed
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine JJAG
Maine Youth Court
Maryland Statewide Advisory Group (MD SAG)
Mennonite Central Committee, U.S. Washington Office
Metropolitan Congregations United (St. Louis, MO)
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of Churches
National Criminal Justice Association
National Juvenile Defender Center
National Network for Youth
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
National PTA
National Youth Advocate Program, Inc.
National Youth Employment Coalition
New Jersey Parent's Caucus
Peoria Regional Office of Education
Rights4Girls
School Social Work Association of America
SparkAction
Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
The Gathering for Justice
The Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice (Ohio)
The Sentencing Project
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The National Crittenton Foundation

Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys
Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform
Voices for Vermont's Children
W. Hayward Burns Institute
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Wyoming Children's Law Center, Inc.