



**WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**  
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April 21, 2009

Members  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

*via fax*

**RE: NAACP SUPPORT FOR S. 678, THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND  
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008**

Dear Senator;

On behalf of the NAACP, our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to support S. 678, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2009 as introduced. During the mark-up process, the NAACP would also support amendments to provide for stronger conditions of confinement language, improved incentive grants language, and a phase-out of the statutory authority to confine youth status offenders in juveniles facilities. We further urge you to oppose any amendments which may weaken the core programs that are enhanced in the bill as introduced or that would make it easier to transfer youth to the adult criminal justice system.

For more than 30 years the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act (JJDP) has provided states and localities with federal standards and supports for improving juvenile justice and delinquency prevention practices and put in place safeguards for youth, families and communities. As introduced, S. 678 updates and improves many of the JJDP's core requirements, research and training resources and other key areas of the law. The NAACP strongly supports these enhancements and is extremely pleased and appreciative of Chairman Leahy, Senators Durbin, Kohl and Specter and all others who have worked so hard to ensure that this legislation is as strong as it is.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the NAACP position. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,

Hilary O. Shelton  
Vice President for Advocacy /  
Director, NAACP Washington Bureau