



# Ocean County Youth Services Commission

165 Sunset Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08754-2191



Chair:  
Jean Krauss

Freeholder Director  
John P. Kelly

Judge James Blaney

Prosecutor  
Marlene Lynch Ford

OC Supt.Schools  
Dr. Bruce Greenfield

Probation Supervision  
Dir. James Kelly

Family Intake  
Mary Babich

Juvenile Detention Supt.  
Gerald Bowden

Intensive Probation Officer  
Luis Carrasquillo

Ocean County College  
Antoinette Clay-Hall

County Inter Agency Cord.  
Jamie Hart

Alcohol/Drug Coord.  
Barbara Hawes

Partnership for Children  
Enrico DeGironimo

Public Member  
Ann Finnegan

Counseling & Referral  
Roberto Flecha

Children's Shelter  
Gina Polese Grosso

Juvenile Officers Assoc.  
Det. William Hetrick

Center for Kids & Family  
Michelle Lardieri

Workforce Investment  
Board Patricia Leahey

July 14, 2008

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C.20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

This letter is in support of Bill S3155 "Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2008" and to affirm the findings of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice Annual Report 2007.

Hard statistical data show that the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has been tremendously successful in reducing crime and juvenile delinquency. Its leadership in providing funds and guidance for best practices programs that are scientifically based and proven to work has changed the way we attack these long-standing problems. However, the systematic reductions in funding and the proposal to completely eliminate this vital program threatens to undo the advances that have been made just at a time when the proliferation of gangs requires a new dedication of effort.

Before the recent massive cuts, these funds enabled local communities to make considerable progress in reducing juvenile delinquency and they should be increased instead of being threatened with extinction. Based on the OJJDP's reporting requirements we know that there are reams of statistics supporting the success of this funding so we won't repeat them here. We will repeat the FACJJ finding that "Juvenile justice in this country has reached a crossroads" and that Congress can make 'smart choices' by staying the course and reauthorizing the JJDP Act instead of passing new laws in response to the latest media frenzy.

We urge you to make the "smart choice" for the sake of our children and our country. Support S3155. Thank you .

Jean Krauss  
Chair

Vice-Chair:  
Michael Carpenter

Presiding Family Court  
Judge E. David Millard

Judge Ronald Hoffman

Public Defender  
Frank Gonzalez

OC Vocational Supt.  
William Hoey

Family Court Div. Mgr.  
Brendon Toner

Family Intake  
Jennifer Perlmutter

St. Barnabas Health  
Helene Long

Public Member  
Emma Mamano

Ocean Mental Health  
Margaret Mollozzi

Human Services Dir.  
Jill Perez

Kimball PESS Unit  
James Romer

Div. of Youth & Family  
David Rudnitsky

Family Crisis Unit  
William Sanchez

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Susan Sedivec

Preferred Behavioral  
William Sette

Public Member  
Clifford Van Nest

Private Industry Council  
Marilyn Williamson

NJ Juv. Justice Liaison  
Debra Jaques