

ACT 4

JUVENILE JUSTICE

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Juvenile In Justice Exhibit to highlight plight of system-involved youth

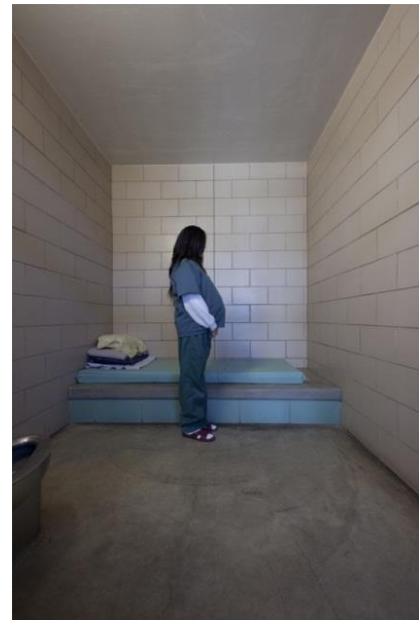
Photographs showcasing the conditions of confinement in America's juvenile detention facilities on display in Senate Rotunda

Event commemorates 40th Anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

WASHINGTON (September 3, 2014) – Visitors to the Russell Senate Office Building will have the chance to get an up-close look at the conditions of confinement facing children who live in America's juvenile detention facilities. On Sept. 8-12, the Senate Rotunda will showcase the work of Richard Ross. The photographer traveled the country for nearly 5 years, documenting the lives of children who were confined in nearly 200 juvenile detention centers, across roughly 31 states. The result was a series of eye opening photos that were included in his acclaimed 2012 book, *Juvenile In Justice*. A portion of these images will be on display this month.

"My hope is that these images reveal the critical work we have left to do for our kids in the juvenile justice system-work we have to do before the JJDP's key protections can be fully realized. It's a privilege for me to sit on the floor and talk to these youth, but ideally this work wouldn't need to be done," said Ross.

In 2011 alone, more than 61,000 children were confined in juvenile detention facilities, correctional facilities and other similar residential institutions nationally, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which is providing the photos. Ross' photos give





glimpses of children – some of whom have committed no criminal offense - who are in these facilities, and the conditions they experience while incarcerated.

The exhibit is hosted by the Act4JJ Campaign with the help of Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA). The event is being held in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A).

The landmark federal legislation was passed Sept. 7, 1974 with broad bipartisan support. The legislation provides key protections for young people who are involved with the juvenile justice system, including:

- the deinstitutionalization of boys and girls who have engaged in status offense behaviors such as skipping school, missing curfew and running away from home;
- removal of boys and girls from adult jails and lockups;
- sight and sound separation of young people and adults who are detained in the same facility;
- requiring states to address Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) within their juvenile justice system.

The JJDP A was last reauthorized by Congress in 2002, and expired in 2007.

“While we have undoubtedly come very far since the days children were routinely confined with adults, and juvenile justice systems failed to recognize disproportionate contact with youth of color, and had other significant failings, Richard Ross’ images remind us that there is a lot of work yet to be done. The JJDP A represents a federal commitment to safe, fair and effective juvenile justice systems all across the country, no matter where a young person may live if they come into conflict with the law.

“Unfortunately, in its present incarnation, the Act is outdated and inconsistent with what we now know works best for young people, families and communities. With the 40th Anniversary upon us, the time is now to reauthorize,” said Marie Williams, Executive Director of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and co-chair of Act4JJ.



“Ross’ photos remind us of how important it is to reauthorize and strengthen the JJDPa and the protections it affords to our youngest and most vulnerable citizens,” said Marcy Mistrett, Chief Executive Officer of the Campaign for Youth Justice, and co-chair of the Act4JJ Coalition, a working group of the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition.

To preview the images or learn more about Ross’ work, please visit <http://www.juvenile-in-justice.com>.

The Russell Senate Office Building is located at:
2 Constitution Ave., NE,
Washington, D.C. 20002

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Act 4 Juvenile Justice (Act4JJ) is a campaign of the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition composed of juvenile justice, child welfare and youth development organizations exploring opportunities related to the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPa), which is overdue for reauthorization. For additional information, visit www.act4jj.org.