



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,

7<sup>th</sup> 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  
PACE Center for Girls  
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. Haywood Burns Institute  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families  
Wyoming Children's Law Center, Inc.