



**A CAMPAIGN OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE &  
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COALITION**

February 13, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you work on the Administration's budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2018, we urge you to include adequate funding for key federal juvenile justice programs. In order to ensure that state, local and private dollars continue to be leveraged effectively to promote public safety, prevent delinquency, and protect some of our most vulnerable children and youth, we ask that you include the following funding levels for juvenile justice programs as follows:

- \$80 million for the JJDP A Title II State Formula Grants Program;
- \$100 million for the JJDP A Title V Delinquency Prevention Program, including \$10 million for competitive grants that focus on girls in the juvenile justice system, and \$25 million for the Tribal Youth Program with no additional earmarks;
- \$30 million for Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program;
- \$25 million for the Juvenile Justice Realignment Incentive Grants to help states implement evidence-based strategies that reduce youth incarceration and foster better outcomes for youth;
- and \$25 million in community-based violence prevention initiatives, 50% of which will support public health approaches to violence prevention;

For more than 40 years, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) has provided critical federal funding to states and tribes to comply with a set of core requirements designed to protect children from the dangers of adult jails and lockups; keep status offenders out of locked custody; and address racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system. Title II of JJDP A funding supports state compliance with these core protections and helps build effective state systems. Title V is the only federal program that provides delinquency prevention funding at the tribal and local level to reach youth at risk and help keep them out of the juvenile justice system. The Tribal Youth Program, included in Title V of JJDP A, is the primary program through which tribal governments regularly receive juvenile justice funding and should be restored or, at a minimum, preserved at its current level.

Ensuring adequate funding for these programs is especially critical as the Congress looks to reauthorize this bi-partisan landmark law this year.

In addition to these JJDP A programs, funding through the JABG program has supported state efforts to effectively strengthen supports for court-involved youth. Congress has zeroed out this funding in recent years, but we encourage you to call for these critical dollars to be restored. These funds support vital state efforts to effectively strengthen juvenile court services, such as behavioral health screening and assessment for court-involved youth and alternatives to detention.

We also support funding for the Juvenile Justice Realignment Incentive Grants which can help states implement systems reforms that promote the use of community-based alternatives to reduce overall youth incarceration and the prevalence of



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racial and ethnic disparities. It is critical that as we continue to reduce youth incarceration, we also address problems in our systems that have seen racial and ethnic disparities grow. These grants provide targeted resources to states to build more effective, fairer systems and, as a result, better outcomes for youth and the public.

Finally, we support investments in local efforts to better address the needs of system-involved girls. Girls are the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice population and targeted federal dollars will help improve responses to at-risk and system-involved girls. American Indian and Alaska Native children are arrested at a rate of more than two-to-three times that of other youth and are also overrepresented in the juvenile justice system. Federal support is necessary to ensure these young people have access to fair, appropriate and effective justice services and delinquency prevention programs in tribal communities.

Appropriations for federal juvenile justice programs have declined to the *lowest levels in more than a decade*. It remains critical that the Administration put forward a budget proposal that reinforces this important federal-state partnership to protect children and to invest in innovative and cost-effective reforms that keep youth out of trouble and communities safe.

At a minimum, we ask that you retain FY 2017 funding levels for these key programs in your Administration's budget proposal for FY 2018. Any less would move even further away from the targeted federal involvement that has historically provided critical national leadership to states in promoting public safety and preventing youth from entering the justice system.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcy Mistrett".

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Marcy Mistrett, President & CEO  
Campaign for Youth Justice  
ACT4JJ Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naomi Smoot".

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Naomi Smoot, Executive Director  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice  
ACT4JJ Co-Chair

cc: Attorney General of the United States  
Director, Office of Management and Budget