



July 23, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chair
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Chairwoman and Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Act-4-JJ Campaign and our broad network of more than 300 organizations representing all states, territories and the District of Columbia., we ask you to include as much funding as possible for critical juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs in the final Fiscal Year 2014 Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations bill.

In order to ensure that state, local and private dollars continue to be leveraged effectively to promote public safety, prevent juvenile delinquency and protect some of our most vulnerable children and youth, we ask that you support minimum federal funding levels for FY14 as follows:

- \$80 million for the JJDP A Title II State Formula Grants Program;
- \$65 million for the JJDP A Title V Delinquency Prevention Program;
- \$30 million for Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program;
- \$20 million for Juvenile Justice Realignment Incentive Grants; and
- \$2 million grant program for girls in the juvenile justice system.

For more than 35 years, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) has provided critical federal funding to states 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 the disproportionate treatment of youth of color in the justice system. Title II of JJDP A funding supports state compliance with these core protections and helps ensure that states have the resources to build effective state systems and Title V is the only federal program that provides delinquency prevention funding at the local level to reach youth at risk and help keep them out of the juvenile justice system.

In addition to these JJDP A programs, funding through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program supports state efforts to effectively strengthen supports for court-involved youth to both hold them accountable and get them back on track so they are less likely to

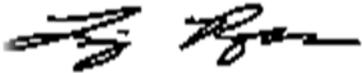
reoffend. As a complement to JABG, we also support funding for the Juvenile Justice Realignment Incentive Grants and for a competitive grant program to help states and localities better address the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system. Finally, in view of the tragedy in Newtown, and the daily violence that plagues many communities, we also support new monies for community based violence prevention using a multi-sector, public health approach.

The future of our youth and the safety of our families depend upon adequate funding for the JJDPA and related juvenile justice programs, which cut costs and lower crime rates. ***As you move forward in the appropriations process, we call on you to adopt funding levels for Title II, Title V, JABG, and related juvenile justice programs as close as possible to those included in the President's budget, and no less than the levels recommended by the Senate in S. 1329.***

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.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Liz Ryan
President, Campaign for Youth Justice
Chair, ACT4JJ Campaign