



A CAMPAIGN OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION  
COALITION

— the collective voice of more than 350 organizations nationwide —

March 17, 2016

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.

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 youth who commit status offenses like running away from home or skipping 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 by more than 50 percent since fiscal year 2002, and we are concerned about the impact that any further reductions in funding would have on states' ability to serve youth.

Cuts over the past decade have weakened the federal state partnership and stymied national, state, and local progress in this area. A survey by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice found that 89% of member states reported that due to federal cuts, **fewer youth will have access to**

**services** designed to keep them from engaging in unlawful behaviors and penetrating deeper into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Since this survey was administered, funding has continued to drop, adding additional strain on the states.

**We encourage you to work to restore some of the critical funding that has been lost over the last decade and include the levels of investment recommended by the Administration in its FY 2017 budget proposal.** These levels reflect authorizers' recommendations included in pending legislation to reauthorize the JJDPA and would begin to restore funding cut over the past several years. At a minimum, appropriators should reject any further reductions from FY16 levels. 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,

Advocates for Children and Youth  
Advocates for Children of New Jersey  
African American Juvenile Justice Project  
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities  
Amachi Pittsburgh  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of University Women of New York State  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Psychological Association  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
A World Fit For Kids  
Barton Child Law and Policy Center, Emory Law School  
Boys Town  
BreakOUT!  
Child Welfare League of America  
Campaign for Youth Justice  
Center for Children's Law and Policy  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Children's Advocacy Alliance (Nevada)  
Children's Campaign  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Law Center, Inc. (Kentucky)  
Children's Leadership Council

Church Women United in New York State  
Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Collaborative Center for Justice  
Colorado Alternate Defense Counsel  
Colorado Juvenile Defender Center  
Columbia Legal Services (Washington)  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Correctional Association of New York  
Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators  
Criminalization of Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies  
DC Lawyers for Youth  
Education Equals Making Community Connections  
Every Child Matters  
Family League of Baltimore  
Family Services of Greater Waterbury (Connecticut)  
FemaleNOTFeemale  
Forum for Youth Investment  
Foster Family-based Treatment Association  
Franciscans for Justice  
Franklin County Public Defender Office (Ohio)  
Fresh Lifelines for Youth  
Futures Without Violence  
Girls Inc.  
God's Will in Action  
Healthy Teen Network  
Hetrick-Martin Institute  
Integrated Community Solutions, Inc. (Minnesota)  
International Community Corrections Association  
Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Justice For Families  
Justice Policy Institute  
Juvenile Division of the Allegheny County Public Defender Office  
Juvenile Division of the 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Public Defender Office  
Juvenile Justice Coalition  
Juvenile Law Center  
Kentucky Council of Churches  
Kentucky Youth Advocates  
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center  
Korean Resource Center  
Law Office of the Montgomery County, Ohio Public Defenders  
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

LifeBridge  
Long Island Coalition for the Homeless  
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights  
Lutheran Services in America  
Medical Mission Sisters  
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership  
Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (Minnesota)  
Metropolitan Nashville Public Defender's Office  
Michigan's Children  
Middlesex County Human Services Advisory Council (New Jersey)  
Mommieactivist and sons  
NAACP  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.  
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council Against Domestic Violence  
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
National Council on Crime and Delinquency  
National Criminal Justice Association  
National Crittenton Foundation  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Domestic Violence Hotline  
National Juvenile Defender Center  
National Juvenile Justice Network  
National Korean American Services & Education Consortium  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Network for Youth  
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives  
National PTA  
National Women's Law Center  
New England Juvenile Defender Center  
New Jersey Parents Caucus  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.  
New Mexico Voices for Children  
Office of the Ohio Public Defender  
Open City Advocates  
Oregon Coalition for Equal Access for Girls

Pace Center for Girls in Florida  
Pacific Juvenile Defender Center  
Partnership for America's Children  
PAXIS Institute  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
People Demanding Action  
Polaris  
Pretrial Justice Institute  
Public Justice Center  
Public Science Project  
Rights4Girls  
Sands House Inc.  
School Social Work Association of America  
Sentencing Project  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership  
Sisters of Charity Western Province Leadership  
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine  
Society for Community Research and Action  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
Southern Center for Human Rights  
SparkAction  
Stop Child Predators  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
TASH  
TeamChild  
Texans Care for Children  
Texas Appleseed  
Texas Criminal Justice Coalition  
The ARC of the United States  
The LawMobile  
True Colors Fund  
University of Michigan Juvenile Justice Clinic  
University of North Carolina Law Youth Justice Clinic  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys  
Voices for Children in Nebraska  
Voices for Vermont's Children  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
W. Haywood Burns Institute  
Washington Defender Association  
Westchester Children's Association (New York)  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families  
Witness to Mass Incarceration

Women Who Never Give Up  
YMCA of the USA  
Youth Justice & Equity Council  
Youth Represent (New York)  
Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project (Pennsylvania)  
Youth Villages