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July 9- 16 – National Invest in Youth Justice Week

House CJS Subcommittee on Appropriations Approves Deep Cuts in Critical Juvenile Justice Funding

Bill Now Moves to Full House Appropriations Committee for Consideration

WASHINGTON (July 11, 2013) Yesterday, the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee on Appropriations approved deep cuts in critical juvenile justice funding as part of its Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations bill. The bill now moves to the full House Appropriations Committee for consideration.

In the bill, the Subcommittee proposes funding Title II of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) at just \$20 million for FY14, down \$13 million from last year's subcommittee recommendation. The bill also zeros out prevention funding under Title V of the JJDP A and funding for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program, which provides juvenile justice practitioners and systems with support for graduated sanctions and continuums of care to address the needs of adjudicated youth.

"These cuts are short-sighted and will only serve to hurt kids," said Liz Ryan, President of the Campaign for Youth Justice and Co-Chair of the ACT4JJ Campaign. "Federal investment in juvenile justice has been on the decline for nearly a decade despite the fact that we know these dollars help states build effective justice systems that protect youth, reduce recidivism, and promote public safety. It is incredibly disappointing that the House continues to short-change investments that help our kids."

For nearly 40 years, the JJDP A has authorized critical federal funding for 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. These federal dollars fund both evidence-based programs and promising new innovations while helping states comply with the basic protections of the Act. Federal resources are also critical in leveraging other state and local funding to improve state justice systems and reduce recidivism.

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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 <http://www.act4jj.org/>.