



## **THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COALITION**

October 28, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

We are writing on behalf of the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition (NJJDPC), a network of national organizations that advocate on behalf of our country's most vulnerable youth. We strongly support, and urge you to support, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA). This deal restores critical funding equally to both defense and nondefense spending that keeps Americans safe and secure and ensures that we not risk suspension of the debt ceiling through March 2017.

The BBA continues the precedent set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 by replacing sequestration equally for both defense and nondefense over the next two years. In fact, the bill replaces about 90 percent of sequestration cuts in fiscal year 2016 and roughly 60 percent in fiscal year 2017. This provides Congress with an additional \$55 billion over the next two years to invest in nondefense discretionary programs.

Failure of this deal would mean a continuation of all of the harmful sequestration cuts, including reductions in funding to critical juvenile justice programs. 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 of sequestration and the additional discretionary cuts it would impose on states' ability to serve youth.

Cuts mandated by sequestration, would further weaken the federal state partnership and hobble national, state, and local progress. When surveyed earlier by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 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.

NJJDPDC urges Congress to vote yes on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 and to replace harmful sequestration cuts with a balanced approach to deficit reduction. This deal paves the path to a bipartisan agreement on appropriations for the remainder of fiscal year 2016 and avoids a shutdown and a full year continuing resolution.

Sincerely,

Bob Baskins  
President  
The Peace Alliance  
NJJDPDC Steering Committee

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Senior Research Analyst  
The Sentencing Project  
NJJDPDC Steering Committee

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