



A CAMPAIGN OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION
COALITION

— the collective voice of more than 300 organizations nationwide —

June 2017

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 Fiscal Year 2018 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 children in need of services who run away from home or skip 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 to the lowest levels in more than a decade, and we are concerned about the impact that any further reductions in funding would have on states' ability to serve youth.

Cuts have weakened the federal state partnership and stymied national, state, and local progress in this area. Many states have already had to significantly reduce services and further cuts would result in **fewer youth having access to services** designed to keep them from

engaging in unlawful behaviors and penetrating deeper into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Speaker Paul Ryan's Opportunity Agenda recognizes the importance of this federal investment in helping states improve their juvenile justice systems with a focus on the education and rehabilitation of at-risk youth. The value of this federal-state partnership is also reflected in the bi-partisan, bi-cameral effort by authorizers to renew and strengthen federal juvenile justice programs in Congress this year.

We encourage you to restore some of the critical juvenile justice funding that has been lost since 2002 and, at a minimum, restore funding to FY2016 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,

7th Direction

Afterschool Alliance

AME Church - Social Action Commission

American Art Therapy Association

American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

American Civil Liberties Union

American Group Psychotherapy Association

American Psychological Association

Anti-Recidivism Coalition

B'More Awesome Inc.

Boys Town

Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

Center for Law and Social Policy

Campaign for Youth Justice

Center for Children's Law and Policy

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

Child Welfare League of America

Children & Family Council for Prevention Programs (VT-SAG)

Children's Action Alliance (Arizona)

Children's Advocacy Institute

Children's Defense Fund - New York

Children's Defense Fund - Ohio

Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana

Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
Citizens for Juvenile Justice (Massachusetts)
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Colorado Juvenile Defender Center
Criminalization of Poverty Project at Institute for Policy Studies
Crittenton Centers
DC Lawyers for Youth
Delaware Center for Justice
Equality Federation
Family Focused Treatment Association
Forum for Youth Investment
Friends of Long Creek Youth Development Center (Maine)
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Futures Without Violence
Girls Inc.
Girls Inc. of Alameda County
Girls Inc. of Chattanooga
Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell
Girls Inc. of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey
Girls Inc. of Holyoke
Girls Inc. of Jacksonville
Girls Inc. of Long Island
Girls Inc. of Memphis
Girls Inc. of Monroe County
Girls Inc. of Shelbyville & Shelby County
Girls Inc. of Tarrant County
Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region
Girls Inc. of the Island City
Girls Inc. of the Northern Sacramento Valley
Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest
Girls Inc. of the Seacoast Area
Girls Inc. of the Washington DC Metro Area
Girls Inc. of Washington County Maryland
Hawaii Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council
Hawaii State Office of Youth Services
Healthy Teen Network
Human Rights Campaign
Institute for Compassion in Justice
Iowa Coalition 4 Juvenile Justice (IC4JJ)
Iowa CURE
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
JustGeorgia
Justice for Families

Justice Policy Institute
Juvenile Justice Coalition (Ohio)
Justice Resource Institute
Kansas Appleseed
Kentucky Sub-Committee on Equity and Justice for All Youth
Kentucky Youth Advocates
King Kekaulike High School (Hawaii)
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Legal Aid Justice Center (Virginia)
Local Connections, LLC (Hawaii)
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine JJAG
Maine Youth Court
Maryland Statewide Advisory Group (MD SAG)
Maui Police Department
Mennonite Central Committee, U.S. Washington Office
Metropolitan Congregations United (St. Louis, MO)
Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement (MILPA)
National Alliance of Faith and Justice
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Black Justice Organization
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of Churches
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Criminal Justice Association
National Disability Rights Network
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Juvenile Defender Center
National Juvenile Justice Network
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National Network for Youth
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
National PTA
National Youth Advocate Program, Inc.
National Youth Employment Coalition
New Hampshire State Advisory Group
New Jersey Parent's Caucus
PACE Center for Girls
Pacific Juvenile Defender Center
Peoria Regional Office of Education

Polaris
Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV)
Rights4Girls
SAY San Diego
SchoolHouse Connection
School Social Work Association of America
Southwest Key Programs
SparkAction
Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
The Gathering for Justice
The Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice (Ohio)
The Jesuits of the United States
The Sentencing Project
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The National Crittenton Foundation
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
True Colors Fund
Union for Reform Judaism
United Way of Rutland County (Vermont)
Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys
Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform
Voices for Ohio's Children
Voices for Vermont's Children
YMCA of Delaware
YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities (Minnesota)
YMCA of the USA
YMCA Safe Place Services (Kentucky)
YWCA Minneapolis
YWCA USA
W. Haywood Burns Institute
Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Wyoming Children's Law Center, Inc.