



A CAMPAIGN OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION  
COALITION

— the collective voice of more than 300 organizations nationwide —

April 3, 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 final Fiscal Year 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill and in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2018 proposal.

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, maintain FY2017 levels included in the current Continuing Resolution for the balance of FY2017 and for FY2018.** 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,  
Campaign for Youth Justice  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice

[ADD YOUR ORGANIZATION HERE BY APRIL 3]!