



February X, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger,

On behalf of the Act 4 JJ Campaign, a broad network of organizations representing all states, territories, and the District of Columbia, we are writing to express how important it is to fully fund the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) as you finalize the remaining appropriations bills for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. 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.¹

As you continue to negotiate the final appropriations bills for the remainder of FY 2019, we encourage you to restore the critical juvenile justice funding that has been lost since 2002 and fund these programs at the levels provided for in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, which reauthorizes the JJDP and was signed into law on December 21, 2018. The Juvenile Justice Reform Act authorizes funding at \$176 million to carry out the Act, of which not more than \$96.1 million can be used for Title V of the Act.² Any less funding for these programs 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.

For more than 40 years, the JJDP has provided critical federal funding to states and tribes 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 racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system. Title II of the JJDP funding supports state compliance with these core protections and helps build effective state systems. Title V is the only federal program that provides delinquency prevention funding at the tribal and local level to reach youth at risk and help keep them out of the juvenile justice system. The Tribal Youth Program, included in Title V of the JJDP, is the primary program through which tribal governments regularly receive juvenile justice funding and should be restored or, at a minimum, preserved at its current level.

¹ *Juvenile Justice Federal Funding Chart, ACT 4 JJ*, available at <http://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/Appropriation%20Chart%20FY17%20updated.pdf> (last visited May 5, 2018).

² Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, H.R. 6964, 115th Cong. (2nd Sess. 2018).

While the JJDPA was not reauthorized when the initial negotiations for FY 2019 appropriations bills began, we were pleased to see a slight increase in funding from FY 2018 for these programs in the Senate's FY 2019 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations bill.³ Given this slight increase and the fact that the Act has now been reauthorized, we were surprised to see a decrease in funding in several of the proposals that have been introduced in the House and the Senate in the new year.⁴ It remains critical that Congress affirm this important federal-state partnership to protect children and to invest in innovative and cost-effective reforms that keep youth out of trouble and communities safe. As you negotiate the remaining appropriations bills for FY 2019, the Act 4 JJ Coalition urges you to consider these critical supports for youth and communities in this year's final CJS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Children and Youth, Maryland
Afterschool Alliance
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Civil Liberties Union
American Psychological Association
Bowles and Byer Family Law Mediation
Boys Town
California State University, Los Angeles
Campaign for Youth Justice
CASA of Peoria County
Center for Children's Law and Policy
Center for Law and Social Policy
Ceres Policy Research
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Defense Fund - New York
Children's Defense Fund - California
Children's Defense Fund - Ohio
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Citizens for Juvenile Justice
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Colorado Juvenile Defender Center
Community Works West
Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance
Crittenton Centers
Directions for Youth & Families
First Focus Campaign for Children
Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Girls Inc.
Girls Inc. at the YWCA Syracuse & Onondaga County
Girls Inc. of Bay County
Girls Inc. of Carpinteria
Girls Inc. of Central Connecticut

³ See Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019, S. 3072, 115th Cong. (2018) (providing \$66 million for Title II of the Act, a \$6 million increase from FY 2018, and providing \$30.5 million for Title V of the Act, a \$5 million increase from FY 2018).

⁴ E.g., Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, H.R. 648, 116th Cong. (2019) (providing \$60 million for Title II (same as FY18) and \$24.5 for Title V (\$1 million less than FY18)).

Girls Inc. of Columbus and Phenix-Russell
Girls Inc. of Greater Houston
Girls Inc. of Holyoke
Girls Inc. of Jacksonville
Girls Inc. of Jefferson County, IN
Girls Inc. of Long Island
Girls Inc. of Lynn
Girls Inc. of Metro Denver
Girls Inc. of Monroe County
Girls Inc. of New York City
Girls Inc. of Omaha
Girls Inc. of Orange County
Girls Inc. of San Antonio
Girls Inc. of San Diego
Girls Inc. of Santa Fe
Girls Inc. of Sioux City
Girls Inc. of Tennessee Valley
Girls Inc. of the Central Coast
Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region
Girls Inc. of the Island City
Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest
Girls Inc. of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area
Girls Inc. of West Contra Costa County
Girls Inc. of Westchester County
Girls Inc. of Western Connecticut
Girls Inc. of Winter Haven
Girls Inc. Wayne County
Healthy Teen Network
Justice for Families
Justice Policy Institute
Justice Resource Institute
Juvenile Justice Coalition (Ohio)
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Legal Aid Justice Center
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
Mississippi Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (SAG)
MomsRising
Mothers Opposed To Violence Everywhere
MST Services
NAACP
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Criminal Justice Association
National Crittenton
National Juvenile Justice Network
National Network for Youth
National Youth Justice Advocate
New Hampshire State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice
New Jersey Parents' Caucus, Inc.
Nico Insurance Services, Inc.
North County Lifeline
Office of the Ohio Public Defender
OhioGuidestone

Oregon Coalition for Equal Access for Girls
PACE Center for Girls
Pierce County Juvenile Court
Rights4Girls
RK Consultants, Inc.
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SAY San Diego (Social Advocates for Youth)
School Social Work Association of America
Solid Ground Washington
Southern Poverty Law Center
Southern Rural Black Women for Economic and Social Justice
SparkAction
St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment
Stamford Youth Services Bureau
Strategies for Youth, Inc.
Target Area
Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
Texas Appleseed
Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance
The Forum for Youth Investment
The Sentencing Project
UbuntuVillageNOLA
Union for Reform Judaism
University of Washington
Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys
Voices for Georgia's Children
Voice for Children in Nebraska
W. Haywood Burns Institute
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice
YMCA of the USA
Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.
YouthBuild USA
YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee