



A National Juvenile Justice Coalition of More than 300 State and National Members

July 6, 2016

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
Chair, Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Sessenbrenner
Chair, Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security
And Investigations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
Ranking Member, Crime, Terrorism, Homeland
Security and Investigations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

As your esteemed Committee considers critical aspects of criminal justice reform, the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition (NJJDPC) encourages you to support HR. 68, the “Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2015.”

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant expired in 2013 and in the past three years has gone unfunded by the federal government. The expiration of this block grant program has greatly limited state’s abilities to implement effective, age appropriate accountability and prevention measures to ensure children get needed services and that communities remain safe.

HR 68 updates the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) to reflect current research and practice, and to include provisions that prevent and intervene in bullying. Key provisions in the bill include incentives for states to use graduated sanctions and incentives grounded in positive youth development, providing enhanced anti-bullying measures, and youth violence prevention and intervention services. It also updates the JABG to include evidence-based practices such as trauma informed practices and mental health care.

Federal support for juvenile justice programming has suffered greatly in the past decade, with funding decreasing nearly 55% to states. Reauthorizing this important program, with recommended funding levels of \$25million, would make a tremendous difference to youth, families and communities.

We thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,

American Psychological Association
Campaign for Youth Justice
Child Welfare League of America
Center for Children on Law and Policy
Juvenile Law Center

Pace Center for Girls
Shubert Center for Child Studies
Southern Poverty Law Center
The Sentencing Project