



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES
est. 1937

NCJFCJ 74th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
New York, New York
JULY 2011

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF

**REAUTHORIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE
JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

WHEREAS, the nation's juvenile and family courts are responsible for protection of the over 400,000 children in the foster care system and the over 31 million who are delinquent and dependent; and

WHEREAS, the nation's juvenile and family courts have been charged by Congress to ensure the fair, effective, and developmentally appropriate administration of justice on behalf of this population; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges has partnered for almost four decades with the federal government through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to improve outcomes for all of these children and families; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges believes that OJJDP as now constituted is necessary to provide a federal partner in the field of juvenile justice, to support and administer funding for training and technical assistance to the courts and system partners; objective, cost effective research and dissemination of critical statistics and reports; and demonstrations of programs that work, including best practice dependency and delinquency courts, juvenile and family drug courts, truancy reduction, gang suppression, and efficient and effective juvenile delinquency programs; and

WHEREAS, OJJDP has, since 1974, been directed by a presidentially-appointed administrator to deal with all aspects of juvenile justice, and was established as a separate entity in the U.S. Department of Justice in recognition of the ineffectiveness of prior federal efforts to deal with juvenile justice issues within large centralized federal departments and programs; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges opposes proposals or efforts to eliminate or consolidate the functions of OJJDP into centralized administration; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges has supported the reauthorization of OJJDP and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act every time Congress has considered these programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges asserts and reaffirms its support for the reauthorization, continuation, and strengthening of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and urges Congress to act to reauthorize and continue the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and the independence and authority of OJJDP.

Adopted this 23rd day of July 2011
By the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees
New York, New York