



June 19, 2019

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Vote “YES” on Amendments to Increase Juvenile Justice Funding in H.R. 3055, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020**

Dear Representative,

The undersigned organizations recommend a “YES” vote on the following amendments:

- **Rep. Scanlon Amendment No. 2**
- **Rep. Scott and Rep. Foxx Amendment No. 12**
- **Rep. Neguse Amendment No. 77**

**Scanlon Amendment No. 2**

This amendment would increase the funding for Title II and Title V of the JJDPa by \$2 million. Under the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, which reauthorizes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPa), Congress is authorized to allocate a total of \$176 million for Title II and Title V of the Act, yet H.R. 3055 only appropriates \$114.5 million. Though the funding in H.R. 3055 does represent an increase from FY 2019 levels, it is still well below authorizing levels. It is critical that Congress fully fund these programs as authorized by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act in order for implementation of the new requirements of the law to be successful.

**Scott and Foxx Amendment No. 12**

This amendment would transfer \$13 million from federal prisoner detention to Youth PROMISE local delinquency prevention grants under the JJDPa. Under the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, Congress is authorized to allocate up to \$96,053,401 for Title V programs (now known as “Incentive Grants for Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (PROMISE)”) each year for the next five years, yet H.R. 3055 only appropriates \$49.5 million, of which just \$17.5 million is allocated for PROMISE grants. This amendment would bring the FY 2020 funding levels closer to authorizing levels.

Title V is the only federal program that provides delinquency prevention funding at the local level to reach at-risk youth and help keep them out of the juvenile justice system. The reauthorization expands the uses of this grant program to include more than 25 funding areas, and establishes local youth councils to develop prevention programming that ensures needs of at-

risk youth are being met.<sup>1</sup> Funding for Title V programs has decreased by more than 70% since 2002, and restoring this funding is critical to the success of the updated law.<sup>2</sup>

### **Neguse Amendment No. 77**

This amendment would increase funding for Juvenile Justice Programs by \$1,000,000. Overall federal funding for juvenile justice programs has decreased by nearly 50 percent in the last 16 years.<sup>3</sup> This amendment would only represent a small increase, but is a step in the right direction.

\*\*\*

In supporting these amendments, Congress will affirm the important federal-state partnership created by the JJDPA to protect children and to invest in innovative and cost-effective reforms that keep youth out of trouble and communities safe. **We urge you to vote “YES” on these three amendments.**

If you have questions, please contact Rachel Marshall, Federal Policy Counsel for the Campaign for Youth Justice, at 202-558-3580 Ext. 1571 or [RMarshall@cfyj.org](mailto:RMarshall@cfyj.org) or Naomi Smoot, Executive Director for the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, at 202-467-0864 Ext. 113 or [Smoot@juvjustice.org](mailto:Smoot@juvjustice.org).

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Boys Town  
Campaign for Youth Justice  
CASA of the Tenth Judicial Circuit  
Center for Children's Law and Policy  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice  
Coalition on Human Needs  
CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants)  
Empower Missouri  
Girls Inc.  
Healthy Teen Network  
Institute of Forgiveness  
Just City - Memphis  
Justice For Families  
Justice Policy Institute

---

<sup>1</sup> ACT 4 JUVENILE JUSTICE, JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT (JJDPA) FACT SHEET SERIES, TITLE V: FROM PREVENTION TO PROMISE (2019), available at [http://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/resource-files/Title%20V%20Fact%20Sheet\\_0.pdf](http://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/resource-files/Title%20V%20Fact%20Sheet_0.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> ACT 4 JUVENILE JUSTICE, JUVENILE JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING CHART, *supra* note 2.

<sup>3</sup> ACT 4 JUVENILE JUSTICE, JUVENILE JUSTICE FEDERAL FUNDING CHART (2019), available at <http://www.act4jj.org/sites/default/files/resource-files/Historic%20Funding%20Chart%20-%20FY19.pdf>.

Kansas Appleseed  
Legal Aid Justice Center  
Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency  
Missouri State Public Defender System  
NAACP  
National Action Network  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
National Crittenton  
National Juvenile Justice Network  
National Youth Employment Coalition  
Nolef Turns Inc.  
Rights4Girls  
SparkAction  
Strategies for Youth, Inc.  
Texas Criminal Justice Coalition  
Ubuntu Village NOLA