

November 4, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Cochran and Mikulski and Representatives Rogers and Lowey:

Thank you for your leadership in helping to move forward the FY 2016 appropriations process with the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. The undersigned organizations now urge the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide the FY16 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill with the highest 302(b) allocation possible to ensure adequate funding for key criminal and juvenile justice grant programs within the bill.

Funding to support state and local evidence-based, innovative programming has declined steeply in recent years. Since FY10, the state and local grant programs have been cut by up to 40 percent, with some programs cut much more deeply. These reductions come with a cost, as many proven programs and new innovations to protect victims, prevent crime, and reduce recidivism have had to be curbed or eliminated entirely. Robust funding of evidence-based programs that support public safety and fair access to justice are critical, and having a sufficient 302(b) allocation for the CJS bill would help ensure adequate funding is available to properly support these critical grant programs.

Thank you so much again for your leadership on these important issues. We urge Congress to pass a clean FY16 appropriations bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

American Probation and Parole Association
American Psychological Association
Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
Boys Town
Bread for the World
Campaign for Youth Justice
Center for Children's Law and Policy
Center for Community Change Action
Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations

Council of Juvenile Court Administrators
Crime & Justice Research Alliance
Hope Matters
IJIS Institute
Innocence Project
International Association of Chiefs of Police
International Union of Police Associations
Justice For Families
Justice Policy Institute
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Major Cities Chiefs Association
Major County Sheriffs' Association
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
NAACP
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards
National Association of Drug Court Professionals
National Association of Police Organizations
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators
National Center for Victims of Crime
National Children's Alliance
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Congress of American Indians
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Crime Prevention Council
National Criminal Justice Association
National Crittenton Foundation
National Disability Rights Network
National District Attorneys Association
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Juvenile Justice Network
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Latin@ Network: Casa de Esperanza
National Legal Aid and Defender Association
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Sheriffs' Association
Peace Alliance
Police Foundation
Pretrial Justice Institute
Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network
SEARCH

SparkAction
Strategies for Youth, Inc.
Student Peace Alliance
The Constitution Project
The Forum for Youth Investment
Treatment Communities of America
Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles
W. Haywood Burns Institute
Women Who Never Give Up
Youth Villages
YWCA USA