

February 17, 2016

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

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
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 and 2017 appropriations process with the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. The undersigned organizations now urge the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to swiftly move forward under this agreement and provide the FY17 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations (CJS) 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 important grant programs.

Thank you so much for your leadership on these issues, and we look forward to working with you as the process moves forward this year.

Sincerely,

American Psychological Association
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Association of State Correctional Administrators
Association of VAWA Administrators
Boys Town
Campaign for Youth Justice
Casa de Esperanza
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Crime & Justice Research Alliance

Futures Without Violence
Girls Inc.
Human Rights Project for Girls
IJIS Institute
Innocence Project
International Association of Chiefs of Police
International Union of Police Associations
Justice Policy Institute
Juvenile Law Center
Major County Sheriffs' Association
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.
NAACP
National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards
National Association of Drug Court Professionals
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 Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Criminal Justice Association
National Crittenton Foundation
National District Attorneys Association
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Juvenile Defender Center
National Juvenile Justice Network
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Peace Alliance
Pretrial Justice Institute
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network
SEARCH
Student Peace Alliance
The Constitution Project
Union for Reform Judaism
W. Haywood Burns Institute
Women of Color Network, Inc.
Youth Villages