

National Juvenile Justice Call-In Day-- Talking Points

Hello! My name is _____ and I am calling your office to ask you to make juvenile justice a priority for this Congress. This Congress can show voters that it cares about juvenile justice by reauthorizing the JJDP, increasing juvenile justice appropriations, and passing the Youth PROMISE Act.

I believe that the advancement of this comprehensive juvenile justice agenda would greatly help the efforts of youth-serving organizations [, including my organization, which _____].

Thank you for your time!

Optional:

The JJDP reauthorization bill – I support JJDP reauthorization because it:

- Promotes the use of effective community-based alternatives to detention and incarceration, such as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI);
- Steers non-delinquent youth, like runaways and truants, away from locked facilities and into community- and family-based programs that help youth and families deal with the root issues;
- Protects youth by improving the way they are treated when in locked facilities, and by keeping them out of adult jails and lock-ups;
- Provides States with concrete guidance on how to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system; and
- Incentivizes States to develop and adopt best practices proven to reduce delinquency, increase youth and family success, and save communities money.

Federal juvenile justice appropriations – I support increasing juvenile justice appropriations because it would:

- Affirm Congress' commitment to reducing delinquency and keeping youth and communities safe;
- Strengthen the ability of States to implement evidence-based practices in their juvenile justice systems; and
- Ultimately save voters money in the long-run by decreasing crime and incarceration rates.

The Youth PROMISE Act – I support passing the Youth PROMISE Act because it:

- Gives local communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime risks the tools they need to develop comprehensive plans for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies in the community;
- Enhances the efforts of local and State law enforcement in combating youth violence; and
- Calls for the development of a National Center for Proven Practices Research that will provide research-supported guidance on effective prevention and intervention programs.