



**Tony Cárdenas**  
**Congress of the United States**  
29th District, California

May 23, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

Thank you for your steadfast leadership of the House Committee on Appropriations, securing important federal funding to support programs and strategies all over the country. In advance of the Committee's markup of the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill, FY 2017, I respectfully bring to your attention the enclosed letter dated March 23, 2016, to the Chair and Ranking Member of the relevant Subcommittee under your jurisdiction – signed by 70 Members of Congress – and urge you to ensure adequate funding levels for federal juvenile justice programs.

Not only is the status quo inadequate, it is unsustainable and unaffordable. It costs \$150,000 to detain a single young person for one year in the United States, compared to \$11,000 that our nation spends on education per student. States spend about \$5.7 billion each year imprisoning youth, in facilities that separate families, burden communities and fail to adequately rehabilitate children. Youth that spend time in detention facilities are 50 percent more likely to recidivate. Investing in the programs noted in the attached letter will expand alternative opportunities, save billions in taxpayer dollars and keep our communities safer.

We cannot afford to delay investing in programs proven to save money and better serve our communities for another year. I urge you to invest in juvenile justice programs in Fiscal Year 2017.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like additional information on the crucial need for these programs, or the potential benefits these funds would provide.

Sincerely,

  
TONY CÁRDENAS  
Member of Congress



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0529**

March 23, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-309, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael M. Honda  
Acting Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Acting Ranking Member Honda:

Thank you for your leadership on federal strategies that support opportunities for at-risk youth, increase public safety, and reduce recidivism. As you work on funding levels for Fiscal Year 2017, we respectfully urge you to ensure adequate funding levels for federal juvenile justice programs.

Federal investment in state juvenile justice efforts is critical to promoting public safety while also protecting our most vulnerable youth. We appreciate your attention to juvenile justice in the past and we ask for continued support for these important programs.

In order to ensure that federal juvenile justice programs are carried out effectively, we ask that you include the following funding levels:

- \$100 million for the JJDP Title II State Formula Grants Program;
- \$65 million for the JJDP Title V Delinquency Prevention Program with no earmarks;
- \$55 million for Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program;
- \$40 million for the new Smart on Juvenile Justice initiative to help states implement evidence-based strategies that reduce youth incarceration and foster better outcomes for youth;
- \$25 million in community-based violence prevention initiatives, 50% of which will support public health approaches to violence prevention; and
- \$10 million for competitive grants that focus on girls in the juvenile justice system.

These funding levels will help state and local governments build and maintain effective juvenile justice systems that keep at-risk youth from becoming incarcerated adults. Research shows that incarcerated youth are more likely to offend again compared to other youth who committed similar crimes, but were not put into juvenile detention. By focusing on evidence-based prevention and intervention initiatives, we can truly alter the trajectories of the lives of at-risk youth, helping them live up to their potential to be productive members of society.

Moreover, federal investment in juvenile justice is fiscally and socially responsible. When we invest in effective juvenile justice systems, we not only help improve the lives of at-risk youth, but we also promote public safety by reducing crime in our communities, and save taxpayer dollars by reducing incarceration rates. This is an investment that will continue to reap important benefits for years to come.

We recognize that these are difficult times that require difficult fiscal decision to be made. However, we believe that funding these federal juvenile justice programs is a smart and necessary investment in our youth, and in our future. Please support FY 2016 funding for juvenile justice programs.

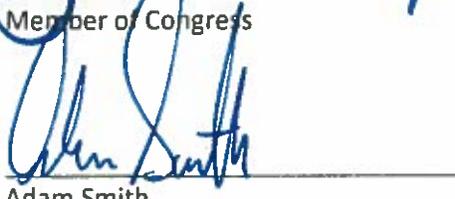
Sincerely,

  
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

  
E. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

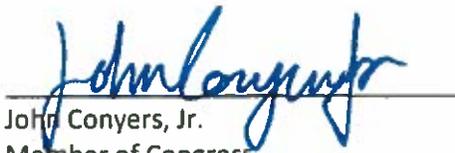
  
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

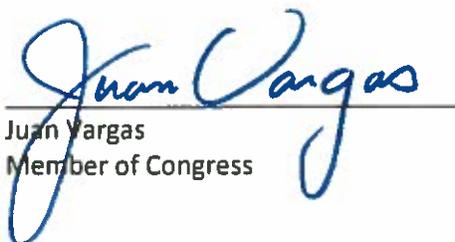
  
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Steve Cohen  
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*Grace F. Napolitano*

Grace F. Napolitano  
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Member of Congress



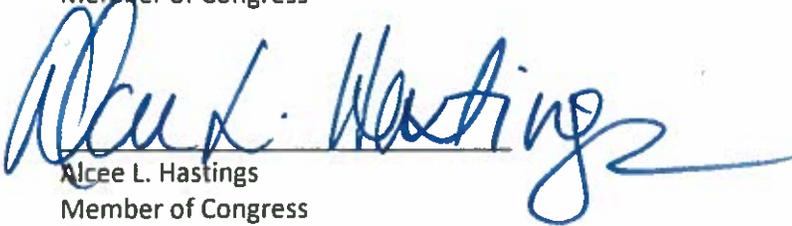
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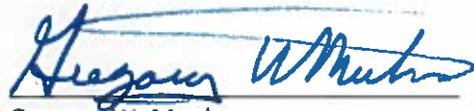
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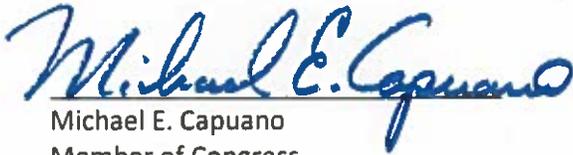
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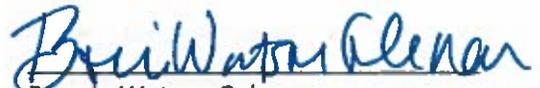
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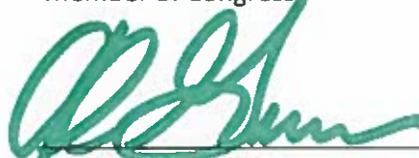
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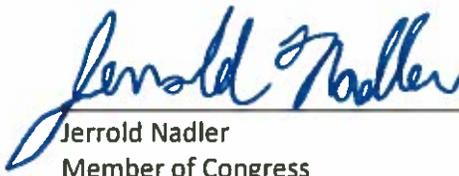
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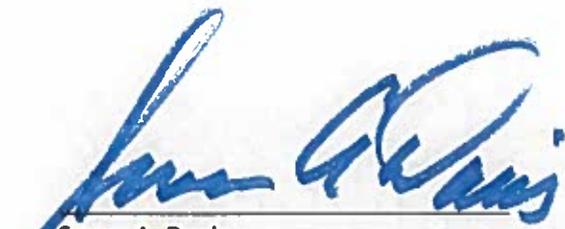
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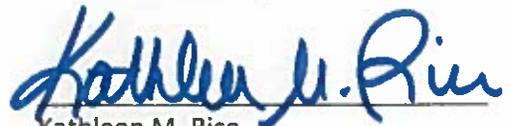
  
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William R. Keating  
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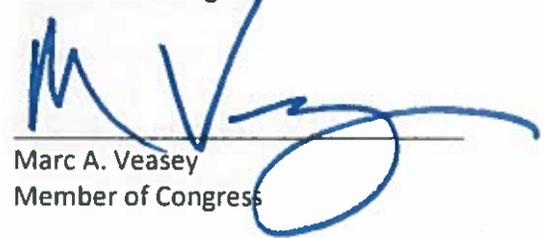
  
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