

**H.R. 1064, the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities,  
Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (“Youth PROMISE”) Act  
Introduced by Robert C. “Bobby” Scott on February 13, 2009**

**Section-by-Section**

**Title I: Federal Coordination of Local and Tribal Juvenile Justice Information and Efforts.**

Sec. 101 creates a PROMISE Advisory Panel. This Panel will assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in selecting PROMISE community grantees. The Panel will also develop standards for the evaluation of juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention approaches carried out under the PROMISE Act. Sec. 102 provides for specific data collection in each designated geographic area to assess the needs and existing resources for juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention. This data will then facilitate the strategic geographic allocation of resources provided under the Act to areas of greatest need for assistance.

**Title II: PROMISE Grants.** Sec. 201 establishes grants to enable local and tribal communities, via PROMISE Coordinating Councils (PCCs) (Sec. 202) to conduct an objective assessment (Sec. 203) regarding juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity and resource needs and strengths in the community. Based upon the assessment, the PCCs then will develop plans that include a broad array of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs. These programs will be responsive to the needs and strengths of the community, account for the community’s cultural and linguistic needs, and utilize approaches that have been proven to be effective in reducing involvement in or continuing involvement in delinquent conduct or criminal street gang activity. The PCCs can then apply for federal funds, on the basis of greatest need, to implement their PROMISE plans (Sec. 211-213). Title II also provides for national evaluation of PROMISE programs and activities (Sec. 222), based on performance standards developed by the PROMISE Advisory Panel.

**Title III: PROMISE Research Center.** Sec. 301 establishes a National Research Center for Proven Juvenile Justice Practices. This Center will collect and disseminate information to PROMISE Coordinating Councils and the public on current research and other information about evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity and intervention. Sec. 302 provides for regional academic research partners to assist PCCs in developing their assessments and plans.

**Title IV: Youth-Oriented Policing Services.** Sec. 402 provides, within the office of Community Oriented Policing Services, for the hiring and training of Youth Oriented Policing (YOPS) officers to address juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity in coordination with PCC’s and other local youth services organizations. Sec. 403 also establishes a Center for Youth Oriented Policing, which will be responsible for identification, development and dissemination of information related to strategic policing practices and technologies to law enforcement agencies related to youth.

**Title V: Enhancing Federal Support of Local Law Enforcement Mynisha’s Law.** Mynisha’s Law provides appropriate federal coordination and collaboration by requiring the placement of an interagency task force – consisting of representatives from the Departments of Justice, Labor, Education, HUD and HHS – to prevent and address gang activity in specific designated high intensity gang areas. The interagency task force would be responsible for identifying and coordinating access to federal gang prevention resources, such as afterschool programs, Job Corp programs, and low income affordable housing.

Sec. 511 authorizes the COPS Office to make grants to local and tribal governments with a PROMISE Council to develop community-based programs that provide crime prevention, research, and intervention services designed for gang members and at-risk youth. Sec. 522 authorizes the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to partnerships between a state mental health authority and one or more local public or private entities to prevent or alleviate the effects of youth violence in urban communities with a high or increasing incidence of such violence by providing violence-prevention education, mentoring, counseling, and mental health services to children and adolescents.

**Title VI: Precaution Act.** To coordinate the volumes of data and research on crime prevention and intervention, this Title creates a national commission on crime prevention and intervention strategies to identify those programs that are most ready for replication around the country, and to provide guidance in a direct and accessible format to state and local law enforcement on how to implement those strategies. The commission also would identify those promising areas of crime prevention and intervention programming that would benefit from further research and development, and would report to federal, state, and local law enforcement on the outcomes of a grant program administered by the National Institute of Justice to pilot programs in these areas and test their effectiveness. The use of this information would ensure that the criminal justice community is investing its limited resources in the most cost-effective way possible.

**Title VII: Additional Improvements to Juvenile Justice.** Sec. 701 provides additional improvements to current laws affecting juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity, including support for youth victim and witness protection programs. Sec. 702 provides for an expansion of the Mentoring Initiatives program for system-involved youth. And Sec. 703 calls for a study on adolescent development and the effectiveness of juvenile sentences in the Federal system.

**Authorization:** The bill authorizes such sums as necessary to make a substantial and sustained investment in evidence-based prevention and intervention services. In addition to up to \$200,000 in planning grant funds, depending upon the size of the community and other factors, a grantee may receive up to \$10 Million a year for up to 4 years.

**Recapture Savings Feature:** Research shows that such investments in youth will yield tremendous savings through reductions in violence, delinquency and crime, welfare, prison and other criminal justice costs. During the grant period, grantees are required to assess the savings brought about by the grant and work with local and state agencies (jails, prisons, hospitals [because of reduced indigent care for gunshots, knife wounds, etc.], welfare and others) experiencing the savings to recapture a portion of those savings to keep the program going so that the savings will be maintained going forward.