

VERY IMPORTANT

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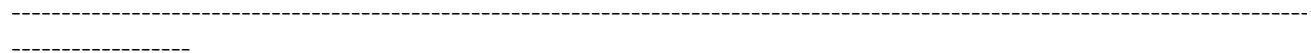
Action Alert: Appoint an Administrator to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Preven

May 2, 2011

We write to you today with a special request to contact your member of the U.S. House of Representativ Obama Administration to appoint an Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Pr the congressional sign-on letter for the President as well as a "Dear Colleague" letter from the U.S. Hous making this request.

Please call your member of the U.S. House of Representatives to ask him/her to sign onto this crucial let <http://www.house.gov/> and on the top right hand corner, enter your zipcode.

Deadline is Friday, May 6th.



The Time is Now to Appoint a Leader to Represent Our Most Vulnerable Youth

Join Us in Requesting a Meeting with the White House about the Nomination of Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Administrator

Dear Colleague:

I hope you will join us in sending a letter to President Obama and Vice President Biden requesting a mee their plans for selecting a strong nominee for the position of Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Just (OJJDP) as soon as possible. Like us, you may be distressed to learn that this is only one of two Senate-c Department of Justice (DOJ) for which a nominee has not been selected.

OJJDP is the federal agency charged with strengthening the juvenile justice system's efforts to protect pu and make available services that address the needs of youth and their families. The OJJDP Administrator keep youth in their custody safe and to reduce recidivism. Under the Administrator, OJJDP cultivates a : best practices, provides technical assistance and support to State and territories to comply with the Juven Act (JJDPA), and develops national policies and priorities.

The importance of an OJJDP Administrator cannot be overstated. There are nearly two million youth in justice systems each year, costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Even worse, the current systems contribute to future offending, making communities less safe and adding additional costs to taxpayers.

The Administration needs to prioritize issues facing youth in the criminal justice systems and select an effective OJJDP Administrator right away. If you have any questions or would like to sign the letter, please contact Chris Murphy's office at 5-4476 or Mollie Van Lieu in Congressman Platts' office at 5-5836 or mollie.van
Sincerely,

Christopher S. Murphy
Member of Congress

Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

May 6, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Vice President Joe Biden
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear President Obama and Vice President Biden,

We are writing today to respectfully request that you select a strong nominee for the position of Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) as soon as possible. As we are over halfway through the current period of funding, we are in a state of significant lack of a nominee and would like to schedule a meeting with you or a surrogate to discuss the issue.

As you know, Administrator of OJJDP is one of only two positions within the Department of Justice (DOJ) that are currently unselected. While we are pleased with actions OJJDP has taken toward reforming and right-sizing the juvenile justice systems so far, our nation's vulnerable youth need and deserve an experienced and competent OJJDP Administrator.

Created over 35 years ago as part of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA), OJJDP has been strengthening the juvenile justice system's efforts to protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and address the needs of youth and their families. Despite its vital responsibility to provide leadership to States through its dissemination of best practices, technical assistance and support to State and territories to comply with the JJDPA, and despite its high priorities, the Office has suffered a drastic depletion of funding and support over the last decade. Specific programs have declined 90% since 2002 and the JJDPA is four years overdue for reauthorization.

Yet by selecting an effective and committed nominee for OJJDP Administrator right away, we believe you can advance the national juvenile justice agenda that not only keeps youth safe but builds on cost-effective programs that reduce delinquency. We know what works to improve outcomes: evidenced-based strategies that prevent juveniles from re-offending, reducing the numbers and types of juveniles placed in the juvenile justice and adult criminal justice systems, and providing a cost-effective, and meaningful response to their involvement with these systems. Accordingly, we need your support for an OJJDP Administrator in order to reverse course and invest in proven strategies.

Importantly, this is not only a moral issue but an economic one. Incarcerating youth is enormously expensive. The cost to society comes from lost opportunities. As you know, every year nearly two million of our nation's youth are involved in the juvenile justice systems, many of whom could have been prevented from getting involved in the first place. According to the Department of Justice, engaging in repeat offenses can cost taxpayers over \$5.7 million over the course of a lifetime in lost productivity and increased costs on social programs. However, by investing in what works, we can help change the fate of delinquent and at-risk youth. Doing so would also provide long-term relief for state budgets by reducing recidivism and supporting local economies.

As a nation, we cannot afford to wait any longer for the nomination of an OJJDP Administrator and a plan to address the needs of at-risk youth. Please have your staff contact Linda Forman in the office of Congressman Chris Murphy at (202) 692-1234 for questions or to schedule a meeting with us for you or a surrogate.

Sincerely,

The Campaign for Youth Justice is a national campaign dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating juveniles in the adult criminal justice system.

Campaign for Youth Justice | 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 610
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-558-3580

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