



The U.S. Conference of Mayors
76th Annual Meeting
June 20-24, 2008
Miami

2008 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

CALLING FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

WHEREAS, The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974 [42 U.S.C. 5601] provides the major source of federal funding to improve states' juvenile justice systems. The JJDP was cultivated upon the tested notion that children should not have contact with adults in jails and other institutional settings, and that status offenders should not be placed in secure detention; and

WHEREAS, the current authorization, as amended, of the JJDP is set to expire in 2009; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, violent crime among youth increased four percent from 2005 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice, youth violent crime accounts for 17 percent of the total violent crime in America; and

WHEREAS, a recent study published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finds that transferring youth to the adult criminal justice system significantly increases crime; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Conference of Mayors passed a resolution requesting that Congress implement better funding methods through the States for addressing youth violence and juvenile justice issues; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Conference of Mayors encouraged its members to create programs to prevent and reduce violence by implementing parent education initiatives, family support programs, business programs, and faith-based organization enterprises; and

WHEREAS, also in 2007, the Conference of Mayors reiterated its call for better regulation of the sealing, expunging and releasing of juvenile records, particularly those associated with nonviolent crimes, so that young people affected have the maximum opportunity to become self-sufficient and successful adults; and

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act is an essential tool toward not only helping our nation's youth but also preventing crime,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act with specific increased spending flexibility and amounts for the 1) Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program, 2) Title II Grants, and 3) New

Initiatives and Programs Grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls on other mayors and Congress to support youth programs with intervention targets for at-risk youth ages 14 to 25 through outreach and service connection and also attempts to link the community as a whole through a media campaign and community mobilization efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a reauthorization shall include at least programs supporting job training, education, employment, housing, substance abuse treatment, mental health services and recreation to help our youth realize their true potential.