



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2011

Contact:

Eric Solomon

(202) 558-3580 x20

(202) 253-5557 (cell)

esolomon@cfyj.org

Karen DeWitt

(202) 628-0871

kdewitt@sentencingproject.org

**National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition Releases
Top Priorities for the Obama Administration and the 112th Congress**

Washington, D.C. – Today, the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition (NJJJPC) released strong recommendations addressing much-needed policy and administrative advances to President Obama's Administration and Members of the 112th Congress.

This call for action prioritizes juvenile justice system reform and urges:

- Swift appointment of a permanent administrator for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP);
- Reauthorizing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA);
- Ensuring that implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) meets the needs of detained youth.

Juvenile justice systems across the United States are in urgent need of reform. The JJJPA reauthorization is four years overdue. Young people are being sexually abused in our juvenile and adult facilities. President Obama and Congress must immediately appoint a strong OJJDP Administrator, set a clear direction for reform and provide resources to states to help keep our youth and communities safe. In addition, Attorney General Eric Holder needs to finalize PREA regulations and begin implementation. Leadership is the key to change, therefore the Coalition calls for a nominee to be named and confirmed as OJJDP Administrator, immediately. With strong bi-partisan leadership from the President and the Congress, these reforms are possible.

The NJJDP Coalition's recommendations are based on the consensus of more than 50 national organizations working on youth development, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, including a broad range of practitioners and advocates from faith-based groups, education organizations, research organizations, and prevention-oriented law enforcement organizations.

The Coalition's National Steering Committee consists of leaders from: American Civil Liberties Union; Campaign for Youth Justice; Center for Children's Law & Policy; Coalition for Juvenile Justice; Justice Policy Institute; The Sentencing Project; National Juvenile Justice Network; and World Vision.

###

For more information and to view the documents, visit: www.campaignforyouthjustice.org.