



BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES  
ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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December 21, 2007

**VIA FACSIMILE**

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: In Support of H.R. 3846—The Youth PROMISE Act**

Dear Representative:

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) takes this opportunity to voice its support for federal legislation that aims to bring out the best in our nation's youth and to transform youth-at-risk into youth-of-promise.

CJJ is the national, nonprofit representative organization of State Advisory Groups on Juvenile Justice (SAGs) authorized and mandated under Sec. 223(a)(3) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The primary purpose of the SAGs, which span all 56 U.S. states and territories and the District of Columbia, is to improve public safety via the development, expansion and replication of evidenced-based and promising approaches to reducing and preventing youth delinquency and crime.

Our mission is why CJJ is so excited about H.R. 3846. Under the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunity, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education Act ("Youth PROMISE Act"), youth aren't targeted for interdiction, prosecution and incarceration—approaches which, according to good research, can actually increase violence. Instead, youth and the communities in which they live are targeted for intense, evidenced-based and cost-effective interventions proven to reduce victimization and help at-risk young people to lead law-abiding and healthy lives, free from gangs, delinquency and/or criminal involvement.

For these reasons and more, CJJ is happy to add its voice to the chorus of national, state and local organizations in full support of the Youth PROMISE Act.

Thank you for your time, and Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gannon Hornberger  
Executive Director