

2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250 Arlington, VA 22202 703/412.2400 (phone) 703/412.2401 (fax)

December 18, 2007

Dear Representative,

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) representing public and private childserving member agencies across the country expresses its support for the Youth PROMISE Act, H.R. 3846.

This legislation marks a significant step forward in supporting young people who are vulnerable to engaging in problem behavior, criminal activity, and gangs. By providing positive opportunities and encouraging proven effective prevention strategies we will make our communities safer and our youth stronger and better able to stay on a positive track toward adulthood.

Under H.R. 3846 communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges will form local councils. The councils will develop a comprehensive plan for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies. These strategies will be targeted at young people who are at-risk of becoming involved, or involved in, gangs or the criminal justice system to redirect them toward productive and law-abiding alternatives.

The legislation will result in lower crime in our neighborhoods, more cost savings to our federal budget, and brighter futures for our youth. Please consider this CWLA's formal endorsement of H.R. 3846. CWLA appreciates your efforts on this issue and we look forward to working with you on additional child well-being issues.

Sincerely,

Christine James-Brown

Christine James Brown

President/CEO