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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 11, 2013

The Honorable Robert Scott
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security,
And Investigations
House Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
B-336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to advocate in support of adequate funding for local juvenile justice and delinquency prevention activities.

Thank you for introducing H.R. 1318, the *Youth Prison Reduction Through Opportunities Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (PROMISE) Act*. California Counties such as Santa Barbara have first-line responsibilities in the juvenile justice system. In addition to resources to hold violent youth accountable for their crimes, the County needs adequate resources for delinquency prevention and diversions activities in order to provide a full range of prevention, early intervention and community-based options, as well as for the development of strategies that maximize the provision of collaborative and integrated services for at-risk youth and their families. The underpinning of the County's juvenile justice system is an array of services that includes appropriate resources and responses to meet the needs of children and youth.

As your Committee considers legislation related to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, please work with your colleagues to assure that the County's needs for improving the juvenile justice system are addressed, and to provide for adequate funding for the County and similar local agencies to meet the many challenges involved in dealing with juvenile crime.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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