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3,500 Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,  
Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement  
Leaders, and Violence Survivors  
Preventing Crime and Violence

December 11, 2007

Dear Representative:

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS is a national anti-crime organization of more than 3,500 police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys, and victims of violence who have come together to take a hard-nosed look at the research about what really works to keep kids from becoming criminals. The research reinforces what law enforcement leaders know from experience: we can stop much of the crime afflicting our communities, but we have to invest in the approaches proven to be effective. That is why we have endorsed the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act (Youth PROMISE Act, H.R. 3846), sponsored by Representative Bobby Scott. **We urge you to join your colleagues in supporting and cosponsoring this important legislation.**

While being tough on criminals is critical, once a crime has been committed neither police nor prisons can undo the agony of a crime victim and repair that victim's shattered life. Research show that targeted investments that help kids get a good start in life can prevent crime from happening in the first place. Proven crime-prevention investments include:

- quality early childhood education, such as Head Start;
- effective abuse and neglect prevention programs like home visiting;
- quality after-school and mentoring programs; and
- effective interventions for troubled kids, such as evidence-based family therapeutic interventions and offender reentry efforts.

The Youth PROMISE Act will provide resources to communities to develop and implement plans, specific to the needs and strengths of the community, that utilize evidence-based prevention and intervention approaches. The bill will also support more research to identify other effective approaches, and funding for dissemination of that important information about what works. Finally, the bill will establish a new "Youth-Oriented Policing" program, and will reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program.

We urge you to support and cosponsor this important legislation. Identifying and investing in proven crime-prevention approaches now will save lives and money for years to come. We look forward to working with you to move this legislation to enactment.

Sincerely,

David S. Kass  
President

Miriam A. Rollin  
Vice President