

Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bobby Scott
1201 Longworth House Office Building
United State House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Scott:

I write to express my strong support of your legislation, H.R. 1318. The Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (Youth PROMISE) Act would help empower Connecticut's communities, and communities across our nation, to confront the devastating and complex challenge of youth violence. I commend you for crafting this bipartisan legislation.

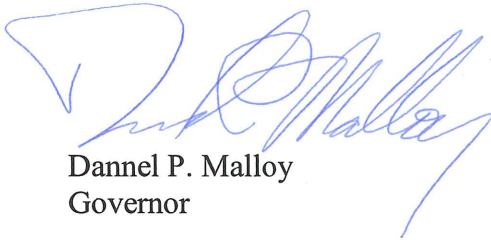
As you know, in Connecticut we recently passed legislation – also bipartisan – enacting common-sense gun control measures that will have an immediate impact on urban gun violence. But combating youth violence requires more comprehensive, preventative measures that are applied right in the communities where our most at-risk youth reside. In our state, we are building unique partnerships among law enforcement, schools, public and private community organizations and the faith-based community to work with our young people and give them the tools they need to avoid a cycle of crime and incarceration.

Last November, I was proud to stand with Attorney General Eric Holder in New Haven to launch "Project Longevity," a comprehensive, community based initiative to reduce gun violence in Connecticut's major cities. Like programs that would be funded by Youth PROMISE grants, Project Longevity uses a strategy proven to dramatically reduce violence when community members and law enforcement join together to directly engage at-risk populations, clearly communicate a community message against violence, a law enforcement message about the consequences of further violence, and an offer of help for those who want it, including assistance obtaining housing and employment. Project Longevity is based on a model that has been successful in reducing gun violence in multiple neighborhoods across the country and represents the first time the strategy is being implemented statewide.

Our strategy reflects the goals of the Youth PROMISE Act. Your legislation, which recognizes that a focus solely on punishment and incarceration is insufficient to systemically reduce violence in our communities, would enable us to supplement and enhance the programs we're employing in Connecticut. Prevention and intervention must be a part of any comprehensive public safety strategy. If enacted, the Youth PROMISE Act would greatly enhance Connecticut's efforts to reduce violence in communities with a high concentration of youth at risk of school disengagement, social disconnection and delinquent behavior. Among the programs Youth PROMISE grants might support include family strengthening programs, academic and school supports, positive youth development and other evidence based interventions, all of which are proven prevention and intervention strategies.

I look forward to working with members of Connecticut's Congressional Delegation to support H.R. 1318 and a Senate companion bill should one be introduced. If I can be of any assistance to you as H.R. 1318 works its way through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dannel P. Malloy", is written over a faint, light blue outline of the state of Connecticut. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor