



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 15, 2010

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Justice strongly supports the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and commends the Committee on the Judiciary for its work on S. 678, the "Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2009."

Supporting and improving the juvenile justice system and preventing youth violence and delinquency are among the Attorney General's top priorities. S. 678 will advance these goals through measures that provide juveniles with access to high-quality, effective juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs and protect them from harmful conditions of confinement. Among the most significant of these measures are:

- Enhancements to the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) core requirement, which will further states' ability to assess and remedy DMC concerns;
- Provisions that improve youth access to qualified legal representation;
- A three year phase-out of the Valid Court Order (VCO) exception and seven-day hold limitation on detention of status offenders for VCO violations during this interim period;
- Extension of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act's (JJDP) sight and sound and jail removal core requirements to youth under adult criminal court jurisdiction awaiting trial;
- Modification of the current definition of "adult inmate" to give states the flexibility to allow youth under adult criminal court jurisdiction to remain in juvenile facilities until they reach the age of extended juvenile court jurisdiction; and
- An increase in the funding allotment for training and technical assistance to states from a two to five percent set-aside.

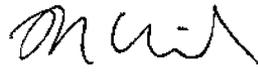
We strongly support these measures. Further, we look forward to working with the Senate to strengthen some other provisions of S. 678 to enhance the bill's

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effectiveness and the ability of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to implement its provisions, as well as develop appropriate funding levels for the programs authorized. In particular, we look forward to addressing concerns regarding Title IV (the Precaution Act).

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views. The Office of Management and Budget has advised us that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this letter.

Sincerely,



Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510