

November 16, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Cochran and Mikulski and Representatives Rogers and Lowey:

Thank you for your leadership this past year in advancing the FY2017 appropriations process. The undersigned organizations now urge Congress to finalize FY17 appropriations before it adjourns in December.

Our diverse community of stakeholders includes law enforcement, state and local officials, representatives from all elements of the juvenile and criminal justice systems, service providers, including courts and individuals directly impacted by the justice system. We are united in urging Congress to finalize the FY17 appropriations process this year. Such finality on funding is critical to those who rely on the funding to provide services in the criminal and juvenile justice systems by enhancing both the planning and execution of key elements of the justice system, thus improving public safety and the effectiveness of justice system services and outcomes. Undue delay creates confusion and interruption of critical services.

Thank you so much for your leadership on these critical issues. We look forward to working with you as the process moves forward in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

*Act 4 Juvenile Justice*

*American Psychological Association (APA)*

*Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA)*

*Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA)*

*Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ)*

*Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)*

*Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (COPS)*

*IJIS Institute*

*Innocence Project (IP)*

*International Community Corrections Association (ICCA)*

*International Union of Police Associations (IUPA)*

*Juvenile Law Center*

*Just Detention International (JDI)*

*Justice Programs Office at the School of Public Affairs at American University*

*Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)*

*Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)*  
*National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations (NAGIA)*  
*National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards (NACVCB)*  
*National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)*  
*National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)*  
*National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA)*  
*National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)*  
*National Children's Alliance (NCA)*  
*National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)*  
*National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)*  
*National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)*  
*National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH)*  
*National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC)*  
*National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN)*  
*National League of Cities (NLC)*  
*National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA)*  
*National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)*  
*National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)*  
*Police Foundation*  
*Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI)*  
*Prosecutors' Center for Excellence*  
*SEARCH*  
*Sentencing Project*  
*Stop Child Predators*  
*The Constitution Project*

Cc: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn  
Speaker of the House Paul Ryan  
House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy  
Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid  
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi