

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE  
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT**

**Resolution Summary**

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974, as amended [42 U.S.C. 5601], was adopted by the U.S. Congress in order to establish a comprehensive nationwide program of juvenile delinquency prevention, offender rehabilitation and juvenile justice system improvements.

The JJDP revolutionized how juveniles in within the justice system were managed. Juveniles were no longer to be put in jails or prisons with adult offenders, as well as recognizing the disproportionate numbers of minorities involved in the court system and asking states to monitor the occurrence. The JJDP asked states to create governor-appointed State Advisory Groups to review current state policy and to create juvenile justice plans and prevention programs to effectively address the concerns of children involved in the justice system. The JJDP further created federal funding to advance these goals and improve the juvenile justice system and established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which is dedicated to training, technical assistance, model programs, and research and evaluation to support state and local juvenile justice and delinquency prevention efforts.

Juvenile arrests reached an all time high in 1994, but have continued to decline since that year, with a record low in 2004. Despite this trend, over 1.4 million children under the age of 18 were arrested in 2005. Juvenile courts handle an estimated 1.6 million delinquency cases and adjudicate youth delinquent in nearly seven out of 10 cases each year. These numbers are still too high.

The JJDP is due for reauthorization during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress in 2007. Without reauthorization, funding for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs will be withdrawn- resulting in a widespread negative impact on juvenile justice and prevention programs, and the positive progress they have achieved thus far.

This resolution is meant to express The Council of State Government's support of the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and to encourage discussion with legislators pertaining to any potential changes to improve the success of the JJDP.

### **Additional Resource Information**

Text of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act:

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/txtfiles/ojjjact.txt>

The Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice's 2007 Annual Report is available at

<http://www.facjj.org/annualreports/ccFACJJ%20Report%20508.pdf>

### **Resolution in Support of the Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act**

Management Directive #1: Support federal reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which has contributed to a record reduction in juvenile crime and delinquency rates nationwide.

Management Directive #2: Support and encourage the continued protection of children and youth who become involved with the juvenile and criminal justice systems, and affirm and strengthen the federal-state partnership around juvenile justice and delinquency prevention so that the federal government and the states can more effectively prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency.

Management Directive #3: CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG's Web site and make available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS**

**Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the  
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act**

**WHEREAS**, for over 30 years, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) has been the primary law guiding federal efforts to support effective juvenile justice and delinquency prevention activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the JJDP A is due for reauthorization in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, although the juvenile violent crime arrest rate in the United States has continued to decline since its peak in 1994, over 1.4 million children under age 18 were arrested in 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 200,000 youth are prosecuted in adult courts each year; and

**WHEREAS**, 49 percent of youth transferred to adult courts were rearrested, compared to 37 percent of those retained in the juvenile justice system. Nearly twice as many transferred youth were rearrested for more serious offenses; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a well established link between the maltreatment of children and future criminal activity and involvement with the juvenile justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that juveniles are more receptive to treatment, which results in lower re-offence rates; and

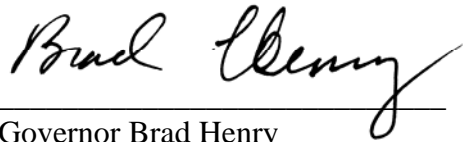
**WHEREAS**, the 2002 reauthorization of the JJDP A recognized that prevention initiatives, early intervention strategies, rehabilitation programs and multidisciplinary coordination are needed to reduce the juvenile crime rate; and

**WHEREAS**, reauthorization will strengthen the federal partnership with states to better implement the provisions of the JJDP A and keep youth out of the juvenile justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, if funding under this legislation is withdrawn, it will negatively impact the juvenile justice system at large and at risk youth.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that The Council of State Governments hereby endorses Congressional efforts to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and to continue the important prevention and rehabilitation efforts it affords juveniles in the states.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2007 at the  
CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum  
in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



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Governor Brad Henry  
2007 CSG President



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Representative Deborah Hudson  
2007 CSG Chair