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5,000 Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,
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Preventing Crime and Violence

June 8, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Jim McDermott
Chairman, Subcommittee on Income Security & Family Support
Committee on Ways & Means
B-317 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Danny Davis
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Platts
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives McDermott, Davis and Platts:

On behalf of the more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and victims of violence of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS, thank you for your ongoing efforts to promote investments in kids that help prevent crime. We know from the front lines in the fight against crime – and the research – that targeted investments in children are critical to our nation's public safety. One such investment in kids – home visits to coach parents of young children – will be expanded through your "Early Support for Families Act" (H.R. 2667). **We are deeply grateful for your bipartisan leadership in introducing this important legislation, and are proud to endorse the "Early Support for Families Act."**

In 2007, there were 794,000 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect. Research shows the true number of victims, including those never reported to authorities, may be well over 2 million. Child abuse and neglect killed 1,760 children in 2007. Children who survive abuse or neglect carry the emotional scars for life. The best available research indicates that, based on the confirmed cases of abuse and neglect in just one year, an additional 30,000 children will become violent criminals and 200 will become murderers as adults as a direct result of the abuse and neglect they endured.

Fortunately, evidence-based home visiting programs can prevent abuse and neglect and reduce later crime and violence. For example, one program, the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), randomly assigned interested at-risk pregnant women to receive visits by nurses starting before the birth of a first child and continuing until the child was age two. Rigorous research, originally published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, shows the program cut abuse and neglect among at-risk kids nearly in half. In addition, children of mothers who received the coaching had 60% fewer arrest by age 15 than the children of mothers who were not coached.

Other home visiting models also produce positive results. For example, a study of the Healthy Families home visiting program in New York (HFNY) found that mothers in the program reported committing one-fourth as many acts of serious physical abuse as the mothers not receiving services did. A study of the Parents as Teachers (PAT) model found that when teen mothers received PAT services, combined with referrals to needed

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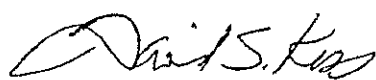
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psychological, health, nutritional, or educational services, the percentage of participating families investigated for child abuse or neglect was zero (compared with 2.4% of non-participating families).

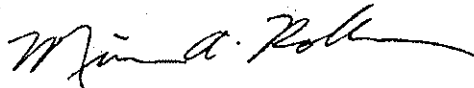
We are pleased that the "Early Support for Families Act" (H.R. 2667) will invest \$2 billion in mandatory funding over 5 years to implement the initiative proposed by President Obama to establish and expand quality programs providing voluntary home visiting to assist families with young children, and families expecting children, especially in high-need communities. We are also pleased that this legislation prioritizes investments in high-quality home visiting programs with a proven ability to produce positive outcomes for children and their families.

Thank you again for your leadership on critical investments in kids that reduce crime. We look forward to working with you to achieve enactment of this legislation.


Sincerely,



David S. Kass
President



Miriam Rollin
Chief Operating Officer



Nick Alexander
Federal Policy Director