

MADELEINE DEAN
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Congress of the United States
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May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1306 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Juvenile Justice Crime Initiative in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Youth Advocates Program, located at 2851 Centre Avenue, Suite E, Reading, PA, 19605.

The funding would be used to support juvenile justice prevention programs that effectively address and mitigate the root causes of youth involvement in criminal activities, which are crucial for fostering positive outcomes. By equipping young individuals with coping mechanisms and emotional regulation skills, these interventions not only prevent justice system involvement but also promote overall well-being and resilience among at-risk youth. A combination of mentorship, educational support, and mental health interventions forms a potent strategy for successful juvenile justice prevention programs.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds for several reasons: Long-term cost savings: Prevention programs aim to address the root causes of juvenile delinquency, such as poverty, substance abuse, and family dysfunction. By addressing these issues early on, governments can potentially save money in the long term by reducing the need for costly interventions later, such as incarceration and court proceedings. Promotion of public safety: Effective prevention programs can reduce juvenile crime rates, which benefits society as a whole by enhancing public safety and community well-being. By investing in programs that address the underlying factors contributing to delinquency, governments can help prevent future criminal behavior and promote law-abiding behavior among young people. Positive outcomes for youth: Prevention programs often focus on promoting positive youth development, providing young people with the skills, resources, and support they need to succeed. By investing in programs that offer mentoring, education, job training, and other services, governments can help young people overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. Reduced recidivism: Prevention programs that effectively address the underlying causes of delinquency can help reduce recidivism rates among juvenile offenders. By providing young people with alternatives to criminal behavior and helping them address issues such as substance abuse and mental health issues, governments can support their successful reintegration into society and reduce the

likelihood of future involvement in the justice system. Ethical and moral considerations: Investing in the well-being of young people, particularly those who may be at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system, aligns with broader ethical and moral principles of promoting social justice, equality of opportunity, and the protection of vulnerable populations. Overall, investing in juvenile justice prevention programs can yield significant benefits for individuals, communities, and society as a whole, making it a sound use of tax dollars.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 USC § 10152).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Madeleine Dean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress