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5,000 Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,
Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement
Leaders, and Violence Survivors
Preventing Crime and Violence

April 22, 2011

Dear Member of Congress:

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Barrie Becker, J.D.
415-762-8270

Illinois

Tim Carpenter
312-265-2260

Maine

Kim Gore
207-725-5946

Michigan

K.P. Pelleran
517-371-3565

Montana

Martha Brooks
503-649-2068

New York

Meredith Wiley, J.D.
518-465-5462

Ohio

Cyndy Rees
614-264-6662

Oregon

Martha Brooks
503-649-2068

Pennsylvania

Bruce Clash
717-233-1520

Tennessee

Mark Rogers
615-662-4666

Washington

Laura Wells
206-664-7110

The more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, attorneys general, other law enforcement leaders, and victims of violence who are members of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS know from the front lines in the fight against crime—and by taking a hard-nosed look at the research—that high-quality early care and education programs are among the most powerful weapons we have against later crime. As the federal government confronts serious fiscal issues, these investments are particularly essential because they can save tremendous amounts of taxpayer money. **As Congress works toward final budget decisions this year, we strongly urge you to prioritize early care and education investments shown by research to give kids the right start in life.**

Specifically, we urge you to reject proposed cuts to early care and education programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant program. Rather than move backwards, we must continue to improve these programs, including through the enactment of a federal Early Learning Challenge Fund which can help states build up the infrastructure to provide high-quality early care and education services.

High-quality early care and education programs have been shown to reduce later crime and save significant public money. For example, a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that at-risk kids left out of Chicago's Child-Parent Centers, government-funded early care and education programs that have served more than 100,000 three-and-four-year-olds, were 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18. Another study of Child Parent Centers found that the program produced more than \$10 for every \$1 spent. Still, the unmet need for these programs is tremendous. Nationally, Head Start can serve only about half of eligible children while less than 1 in 6 children eligible for child care subsidies receive them.

We understand that we are in difficult budgetary times, but we are currently paying – in staggering criminal justice costs alone – for the previous failure to prioritize investments in evidence-based approaches that give our kids, at the youngest stages of development, the ability to become contributing members of society, rather than a huge drain on public coffers. Prioritization of these early care and education investments is sound fiscal policy and will make our communities safer.

As law enforcement leaders who have seen too many kids grow up to become criminals, we urge you to support early care and education investments that can make our communities safer and save taxpayer money.

Sincerely,

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Chief of Police, Oneonta

Robert Green
Chief of Police, Northport

Brandon K. Falls
District Attorney, Tenth Judicial Circuit

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Chief of Police, Sylacauga

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*State's Attorney, Judicial District of
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State's Attorney, Warren County

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Past President, Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge 7

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Sheriff, Carroll County

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Chief of Police, Roaming Shores

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Prosecuting Attorney, Clermont County

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Chief of Police, Groveport

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Chief of Police, Scappoose

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District Attorney, Washington County

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Darla Huxel
Chief of Police, Umatilla

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Chief of Police, Fairview

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Chief of Police, Newport

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*District Attorney, Northumberland
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*Executive High Sheriff, Rhode
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Attorney General, South Dakota

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*District Attorney General, 6th
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Sheriff, Willacy County

W.T. Smith
Sheriff, Burnet County

Ricardo Torres
Chief of Police, Kingsville

Dennis Wilson
Sheriff, Limestone County

UTAH

Greg Harwood
Chief of Police, Salina

Brett McCall
Chief of Police, Centerfield

Tom Ross
Chief of Police, Bountiful

VERMONT

James Hughs
State's Attorney, Franklin County

VIRGINIA

James A. Cervera
Chief of Police, Virginia Beach

James Day
Chief of Police, Bedford

Jeffrey W. Faries
Chief of Police, Colonial Heights

Gabe Morgan
Sheriff, Newport News

Chuck Wilkins
Sheriff, Northumberland County

Robert Williamson
Sheriff, Frederick County

WASHINGTON

Jim Arsanto
Chief of Police, Buckley

Brian Asmus
Chief of Police, Liberty Lake

Paul Ayers
Chief of Police, Issaquah

G. Ken Bancroft
Sheriff, Asotin County

Gregory Banks
Prosecuting Attorney, Island County

Douglas Barger
Sheriff, Adams County

Robert Berg
Chief of Police, Centralia

Kenneth Bergsma
Chief of Police, Mount Vernon

Bruce Bjork
Chief of Police, Olympia

Alan Botzheim
Sheriff, Pend Oreille County

Bonnie Bowers
Chief of Police, Anacortes

Dave Brown
Sheriff, Skamania County

Randy Celori
Chief of Police, Lake Stevens

John Cheesman
Chief of Police, Fircrest

Clifford Cook
Chief of Police, Vancouver

Michael Dorcy
Prosecuting Attorney, Mason County

Nathan Elledge
Chief of Police, Sammamish

Michael Evans
Chief of Police, Shelton

Bret Farrar
Chief of Police, Lakewood

Scott Ferguson
Chief of Police, Cle Elum

Jack Foster
Chief of Police, Lynden

Charles Fulton
Chief of Police, Walla Walla

James Graddon
Chief of Police, SeaTac

Carrie Greene
Chief of Police, Ridgefield

James Hagarty
Prosecuting Attorney, Yakima County

Matt Haney
Chief of Police, Nespelam

David Haynes
Chief of Police, Tukwila

Bob Heuer
Chief of Police, Castle Rock

Tony Hernandez
Sheriff, Jefferson County

Walter Hessler
Sheriff, Columbia County

Kenneth Hohenberg
Chief of Police, Kennewick

Ed Holmes
Chief of Police, Mercer Island

Ken Irwin
Sheriff, Yakima County

Rick Johnson
Chief of Police, Goldendale

Jeff Ketchum
Chief of Police, Tieton

Michael Knapp
Chief of Police, Ferndale

Donald Lane
Chief of Police, Brier

John Lovick
Sheriff, Snohomish County

Rick McComas
Sheriff, Klickitat County

Andrew Miller
Prosecuting Attorney, Benton County

Rob Nou
Sheriff, San Juan County

Dennis Peterson
Chief of Police, Lake Forest Park

Tim Quenzer
Chief of Police, Monroe

Tom Robbins
Chief of Police, Wenatchee

Frank Rogers
Sheriff, Okanogan County

Tom Schlicker
Chief of Police, La Conner

John Snaza
Sheriff, Thurston County

John Stines
Chief of Police, Tumwater

Rick VanLeuven
Chief of Police, Spokane Valley

Mike Warren
Chief of Police, Ephrata

Scott Johnson
Sheriff, Pacific County

Rick Kieffer
Chief of Police, Normandy Park

Ozzie Knezovich
Sheriff, Spokane County

Denni Lepiane
Chief of Police, College Place

Wade Magers
Sheriff, Lincoln County

David McCormick
Chief of Police, Ritzville

Kevin Milosevich
Chief of Police, Renton

Eric Olsen
Chief of Police, Kirkland

Dusty Pierpoint
Chief of Police, Lacey

Susan Rahr
Sheriff, King County

Ronnie Roberts
Chief of Police, Olympia

Jeff Sale
Chief of Police, Cheney

Karl Sloan
Prosecuting Attorney, Okanogan County

Chuck Spoor
Chief of Police, Raymond

Alan Townsend
Chief of Police, Port Orchard

Rick Wallace
Chief of Police, Oak Harbor

Mike Whelan
Sheriff, Grays Harbor County

Steven Keane
Sheriff, Benton County

K. Scott Kimerer
Chief of Police, Burien

Richard Lathim
Sheriff, Franklin County

Mark Lindquist
Prosecuting Attorney, Pierce County

Steve Mansfield
Sheriff, Lewis County

David McEachran
Prosecuting Attorney, Whatcom County

Mark Nelson
Sheriff, Cowlitz County

Robert Perales
Chief of Police, Granger

Linda Pillo
Chief of Police, Bellevue

Will Reichardt
Sheriff, Skagit County

Craig Rogers
Chief of Police, Bremerton

Richard Sanchez
Chief of Police, Wapato

Darin Smith
Chief of Police, Royal City

Randy Stegmeier
Chief of Police, Bellingham

Jon Tunheim
Prosecuting Attorney, Thurston County

Pete Warner
Sheriff, Ferry County

Greg Wilson
Chief of Police, Mountlake Terrace

Ralph Wyman
Chief of Police, Oakville

WEST VIRGINIA

Darrell V. McGraw, Jr.
Attorney General, West Virginia

James R. Milam, II
*Prosecuting Attorney, Nicholas
County*

Matthew Biggie
Chief of Police, Grant Town

Victor C. Propst
Chief of Police, Star City

Darrick B. Cox
Chief of Police, Belle

Jim E. Samples
Prosecuting Attorney, Clay County

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Jim Arts
Chief of Police, Green Bay

Scott Greuel
Chief of Police, Oshkosh

David Mahoney
Sheriff, Dane County

Francis Springob
Chief of Police, Greenfield

Dale Carper
Chief of Police, Oconto

Perry Kingsbury
Chief of Police, Wrightstown

Sean M. Marschke
Chief of Police, Sturtevant

Christopher Domagalski
Chief of Police, Sheboygan

John Kreuziger
Chief of Police, Beaver Dam

Dean Roland
Sheriff, Burnett County

WYOMING

Brett Johnson
*County Attorney, Sweetwater
County*

Steve Keigley
Sheriff, Platte County