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April 30, 2015

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
530 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Whitehouse:

On behalf of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) and our members the State Advisory Groups, or "SAGs", I am writing to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. As you are aware, this legislation is vital to help us reduce delinquency and protect our children's futures. We are grateful that you have made this a continued priority.

CJJ and our nationwide coalition of State Advisory Groups and allies are dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, and to upholding the highest standards of care when youth do become involved in the system. Our membership firmly believes that the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) is an important step to preventing children and youth from becoming system-involved, and ensuring that those children and youth who do enter the system are treated in a fair and equitable manner.

We are particularly grateful for provisions in this bill that strengthen the JJJPA's core protections for youth. This bill comes at an important juncture for the juvenile justice community. The JJJPA celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 8. As this landmark federal legislation enters a new decade, this bill will encourage the innovation necessary to further develop efficient, effective, and fiscally-responsible reforms within the juvenile justice system. Again, thank you for your leadership on behalf of our nation's children, families, and communities.

On a personal note, please allow me to express appreciation for the exemplary work of your staff, particularly Lara Quint. Her willingness to listen, professionalism, and collaborative approach with the field made this process far easier than it might have been and ultimately, I believe, improved the final product.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marie Williams', is written over a light blue background.

Marie Williams  
Executive Director  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice