

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2014



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**COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE “DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED” OVER FY’14
APPROPRIATIONS IN OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL**

Washington, DC – On Monday night, House and Senate negotiators released their FY’14 Omnibus spending bill that included proposed budget levels for key juvenile justice programs. In all key programs, appropriators set levels significantly below those proposed by the membership of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) in letters to Congress and the Administration last fall. Most notably, the spending proposal will terminate the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program which gives states resources for juvenile justice systems improvement.

Instead, the proposal would allow up to \$10 million (almost 20 percent) of Title II State Formula Grants “to be used for building, expanding, renovating, or operating temporary or permanent juvenile correction, detention or community corrections facilities.”

Said, CJJ Executive Director, Marie N. Williams: “While we commend Congress for including in their budget proposal some new juvenile justice initiatives consistent with those called for by our membership, we are deeply disappointed that the appropriators chose to terminate the much-needed Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program. JABG funding has enabled states to develop and implement essential system improvements including the hiring of key staff, the development of alternatives to detention, and the training of juvenile justice professionals in evidence-supported and accountability-based practices.”

Since FY 2002, JJDPAs Title II appropriations have declined by 50%, and JJDPAs Title V appropriations have decreased by almost 80%. Moreover, over the last decade between 90 and 100 percent of Title V funds have been earmarked for purposes other than those defined in the JJDPAs. In addition, appropriations for JABG have been decimated, down 90% since FY 2002. Now, the program, and crucial federal funding for some of its 17 purpose areas has been done away with completely.

“Unfortunately,” said Ms. Williams, “this latest cut is consistent with Congress’ more than decade-long trend of reducing crucial funding for juvenile justice, and is all the more troubling as it occurred during a period when the field continues to make significant strides in developing and implementing approaches that work for youth, families and communities.”

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The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) envisions a nation where fewer children are at risk of delinquency; and if they are at risk or involved with the justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. CJJ is a nationwide coalition of State Advisory Groups (SAGs) and allies dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the courts and upholding the highest standards of care when youth are charged with wrongdoing and enter the justice system.