

137931



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA**

**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT**

**TESTIMONY  
of  
Mr. Robbie Callaway  
Assistant National Director  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

**before the  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE  
of the  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
U.S. SENATE**

**Thursday, July 2, 1992  
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC**

137931

**U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice**

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this ~~copyrighted~~ material has been granted by  
Public Domain/Comm. on the Judiciary  
U.S. Department of Justice

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the ~~copyright~~ owner.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Robbie Callaway and I am the Assistant National Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. It is a real honor to testify before you this morning. Every member of this Committee has Boys & Girls Clubs in their State. Mr. Chairman in your hometown of Milwaukee we have 5 Clubs with a total of 18 in your State. My folks there tell me you have been most supportive. Senator Brown we also have 14 Clubs in Colorado, including a great residential camp in Ward.

Today, there are 1350 Boys & Girls Clubs located throughout 49 States, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. 175 of these 1350 Clubs are located in public housing properties. We are currently expanding in public housing on the average of one new Club every 2 weeks. Next week I will be in Colorado meeting with Indian Housing leaders to discuss establishing Boys & Girls Clubs on Indian Reservations.

These Clubs are designed for the long haul. They are not a quick fix -- short term solution. They are designed to help kids, families and the overall community.

When the first Boys Club was created in 1860, it was designed to serve the neediest kids in the community. We have never lost sight of that mission.

It is therefore no wonder that in 1974 Boys Clubs of America was one of the major advocates supporting the creation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. It is also no wonder that Boys & Girls Clubs of America has been on the front lines advocating for the continued authorization of the Act.

Why? The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act has worked. It has proven very effective over the years with the only true drawback being the lack of adequate appropriations and occasional lapse in Administration, often due to the lack of autonomy of the Administrator.

How has the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act been successful? Three of the obvious success areas have been in the reform of the juvenile justice system.

1. It is now the rare exception when a status offender or non-offender is locked up in a secure detention or a correctional facility.
2. It is now the rare exception when a juvenile is not separated from adults when placed in institutional confinement.
3. It is now the rare exception when a juvenile who doesn't need to be, is locked up in an adult jail or police lock-up.

Although we have made great progress in these areas, there is still much that needs to be accomplished.

In addition to reforming the juvenile justice system, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has been the strong national leader in the prevention of

delinquency.

Working with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Boys & Girls Club of America has developed and implemented many very successful delinquency prevention programs.

For example:

1. **Targeted Outreach** - Local Boys & Girls Clubs identify potential delinquents by working closely with schools, police, and juvenile court judges. These kids are then mainstreamed into regular Club activities.

The recidivism rate of these kids back into the juvenile justice system is less than 10%.

2. **Gang Intervention** - Using the techniques learned in Targeted Outreach, local Boys & Girls Club workers identify potential gang members, including younger siblings of gang members, and mainstream them into Club activities. Again the success rate has been exceptional.

3. **Drug Demand Reduction Partnerships** - Boys & Girls Club of America and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have formed a great partnership. In October of 1988, FBI Director, William Sessions, identified Boys & Girls Clubs of America as a potential major ally in the Bureau's war on drugs.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention seized on this opportunity and funded a joint training between FBI Agents and Boys & Girls Club leaders from around the nation.

Jim Schwab, Executive Director of the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in the Bronx, has been in youth work for 25 years. He has a keen insight into what programs really have an impact on kids in this country. In the Bronx he has implemented this program with the FBI and he says, "I can unequivocally say, this FBI and Boys & Girls Club program motivates young people to both stay in school and stay away from drugs!"

As FBI Special Agent Terri Beck says, "By its nature, the Boys & Girls Clubs is a drug demand reduction program. It is giving kids an alternative, a safe place to be after school and on weekends."

Thanks to OJJDP's leadership in this area Special Agent Terri Beck and I participated in an anti-drug rally and walked from our Chicago Club at the Henry Horner Public Housing complex to another complex blocks away. The Boys & Girls Club and the FBI are making a difference in the lives of the kids in this drug-infested neighborhood.

4. **Public Housing** - has seen a difference thanks to the leadership at OJJDP. Boys & Girls Clubs were showing amazing success in opening Clubs in public

housing. One of our problems was we did not have the person-power to get the information out fast enough. OJJDP again showed the leadership and published the manual on "Starting Boys & Girls Club in Public Housing." This manual has now been sent to housing authorities and Boys & Girls Clubs all across America. They have put it to great use as nationally they average 1 new Club created every 2 weeks.

A recent Columbia University Study of the effects of Boys & Girls Clubs in public housing concluded;

"We discovered that the presence of a Boys & Girls Club in public housing encourages residents to organize and improve their community. The Clubs stimulate communication between public housing residents, the police, housing authority managing personnel, and other community groups. The increase in communication seems to have enriched the social quality of life in public housing."

The national leadership of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention helped make all this, and more, happen at Boys & Girls Clubs throughout America.

Today other witnesses will expand on the many successful activities that OJJDP has allowed for their organizations and constituents. My friends at the National Collaboration for Youth have countless stories and we all know how OJJDP has dramatically assisted the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges improving not only the overall system, but the quality of the juvenile and family court judges throughout America. My own involvement with the State Advisory Groups on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SAG) began in 1975 and ran continuously through reappointments by 3 Governors. My direct experience as a SAG member ended in 1988. I saw numerous successes on the State level thanks to a strong SAG.

Enough about the many successes of the program. What are the key issues to consider during this reauthorization?

1. **The autonomy of the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.**

This is not a new issue! As far back as the 1980 reauthorization there was a need expressed to have the Administrator report directly to the Attorney General.

At that time, as today, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has been treated as the lowest rung of the Justice Department hierarchy. The demands of the adult criminal justice system have historically taken precedent. Yet over and over again we hear of the need to more adequately address juvenile crimes and prevention.

We encourage this committee to examine this structural issue carefully. We

are very encouraged by the current Attorney General's interest in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. We hope this interest translates into a strengthening of the Office.

For 10 of the last 12 years there has been active and inactive Administration opposition to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. This Attorney General has come out in support of parts of this program and has already placed more emphasis on juvenile justice than many of his predecessors.

2. **Appropriations.** In 1980, the appropriation for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act was \$100 million. In addition to this \$100 million there was another \$100 million devoted to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act through the Law Enforcement Assistance Act, "Maintenance of Effort Provision."

In 1980 this meant about \$200 million in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. In 1981 the overall figure dramatically dropped to \$70 million and has been around that figure ever since.

Given the success this program has had, can you imagine what success it might have had if the appropriation had been maintained at the \$200 million level?

Today, we are advocating a minimum appropriation level of \$100 million.

3. **National Children's Advocacy Program Act of 1992. (H.R.4729, S.2509)**

On April 1, 1992, the first day of "Child Abuse Prevention Month, " Congressman Bud Cramer (D-AL) introduced a bi-partisan bill to establish a children's advocacy program.

Under Mr. Cramer's proposal the Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, in coordination with, the Director of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, shall establish a children's advocacy program to refocus attention on the child victim and to provide support of the nonoffending family member by assisting communities to develop child-focused, community-oriented, facility-based programs designed to improve the resources available to children and families.

The program will also enhance coordination among existing community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prosecution, and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases.

This bill was introduced in the House by Representative Bud Cramer, and in the Senate by Senators Nickles and Heflin. It has a numerous list of bi-partisan co-sponsors. It will replicate a program which has had major success in dealing with the victims of child abuse. Over and over again, we see the

correlations between child abuse victims and delinquency.

**We strongly encourage passage of the National Children's Advocacy Program Act of 1992 as a separate title of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.**

- 4. There needs to be an appointed advisory committee to advise the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This advisory committee should be appointed by the Attorney General and approved by the Congressional Oversight Committees.**

This committee should minimally include representation from the juvenile courts, the non-profit youth serving community, the prosecuting attorneys, the State Advocacy Group Chairs, and others.

This committee should be empowered to advise the Administrator on the progress of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the current status of the juvenile justice system in America.

In closing, allow me to reiterate the strong support of Boys & Girls Clubs of America for the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The current National Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Tom Garth, held my job in 1974 and was influential in the passage of the original JJDP. Our support for this program has never diminished as we have seen it accomplish more than anyone thought possible back in 1974.

We know it can do even more given the strong support of you, Mr. Chairman, and the other Members of this Committee.

Let us seize the opportunity, reauthorize a strong Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and encourage even stronger on-going national leadership from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Thank you.