

REMARKS OF KATHARINE T. SULLIVAN  
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS  
AT THE  
PRESS EVENT WITH CAL RIPKEN SR. FOUNDATION  
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Thank you all for being here today. My name is Katie Sullivan. I'm the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Office of Justice Programs. OJP is the largest of three grant-making agencies in the U.S. Department of Justice.

I'm very pleased to be here with my good friend Steve Salem from the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation. I'm also very glad to be joined by Glenn Fueston from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services, as well as Sgt. Kweise Dadzie from the Prince George's Police Athletic League. I also want to thank the Boys and Girls Clubs of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County for serving as our hosts today.

We're here today to make a couple of important announcements and to talk about the vital role that mentoring can play in improving the lives of our kids and the safety of our communities.

My fellow speakers were gracious enough to allow me to open with a few words. Let me first thank everyone here today on behalf of Attorney General Barr, especially those of you who serve as mentors. You play such an important role – an indispensable role – in the lives of young people. The Attorney General admires you for helping kids reach their potential and achieve their goals, and he is so grateful for everything you're doing to help them become the law-abiding citizens and great contributors we all know they can be.

Young people in America face so many challenges. There are the social and academic pressures – the need to fit in and succeed – that kids have always faced and that have only intensified under the relentless spotlight of social media. And for many kids, these pressures sadly are compounded by serious threats to their safety, like guns, gangs and increasingly powerful drugs. These kids need the guidance of someone they trust, someone who may have walked the very same path, someone who can give them a picture of success. In other words, a mentor.

I'm proud that our Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention provides substantial support to mentoring programs nationwide. In each of the last two years, we awarded \$83 million in mentoring grants to wonderful organizations like the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, the Police Athletic League, and Boys and Girls Clubs. And this year, we're making even more investments. I'm pleased to announce that we are making almost \$85 million in new awards to support national, state and local mentoring efforts. These grants will help youth make connections with respected community leaders

like law enforcement officers, which can help bridge gaps in trust and build respect for the law. Grants will also support mentoring for kids caught up in America's addiction crisis, which has claimed far too many lives and destroyed so many families.

In addition to the mentoring grants, we're awarding more than \$176 million to help address some of the very serious public safety challenges impacting kids, including online exploitation and sex trafficking. Another \$93 million will go to school districts and law enforcement agencies to protect students, faculty and staff from the threat of school violence. Taken together, these investments represent our strong commitment to keeping kids safe and on a path to a bright future.

Federal funding by itself is not the solution to the problems our kids are confronting, but I'm so proud that we can lend our support to the amazing people who volunteer their time and talent as mentors. We are excited about where these partnerships will lead, and we remain so very grateful to all of you for helping kids realize their potential. You are making such a profound difference in their lives.

It's now my great pleasure to introduce our next speaker – our amazing friend and partner, President and CEO of the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, Steve Salem.

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