FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

The Honorable Merrick Garland
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

March 12, 2021

Dear Attorney General Garland:

On behalf of Fight Crime Invest in Kids, an organization of more that 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and other law enforcement executives who work to forge solutions to reduce crime and support healthy child and youth development, please accept our congratulations and our appreciation for your commitment to serve as our federal government's chief law enforcement officer.

As you set the priorities of the US Department of Justice, we ask that you focus resources on fully implementing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA). The 2018 reauthorization of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJPDA) was a critical step forward in supporting states in administering their juvenile justice systems and in implementing evidence-based interventions to prevent youth justice system involvement. As such, state-federal partnerships are the core of successful systemic reform.

The state-federal partnership is critical to states establishing plans in accordance with JJDPA mandates and in DOJ assessing the progress for states to remain in compliance for federal funding. However, more than two years after the passage, states are awaiting full implementation of technical assistance and clear guidance from OJJDP on how to carry out the reforms in JJDPA. As law enforcement officials, these delays are greatly hampering our on the ground ability to implement durable, systemic change to prevent crime and reduce recidivism amongst our nation's young people.

We ask that in your first 100 days in office you make it a priority to direct the the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to:

- Implement the December 2019 GAO recommendation to set performance targets for individual grant programs, with specific numeric goals for each individual program, and make those available to states;
- Provide clarification on the technical assistance available to states as we develop states plans; and
- Promulgate guidance on the Purpose Areas for Formula Grants, as established by Congress, to assist states in implementing evidence-based interventions.

These three actions are vital to supporting successful state-federal partnerships. We look forward to continued partnership with OJJDP as we work together to prevent delinquency and create evidence-based interventions to support successful youth and strong communities.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our great country.

Sincerely,

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

Chief of Police James Abbott
West Orange (NJ)
West Orange Police Department

Sheriff Donald Ash
Kansas City (KS)
Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office

County Attorney James Backstrom
Hastings (MN)
Dakota County Attorney's Office

Prosecuting Attorney Julia Bates
Toledo (OH)
Lucas County Prosecutor's Office

Chief of Police Mike Brown
Salt Lake City (UT)
Salt Lake City Police Department

Chief of Police Steven Casstevens
Buffalo Grove (IL)
Buffalo Grove Police Department

Sheriff Greg Champagne
Hahnville (LA)
St Charles Parish Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Vanessa Crawford
Petersburg (VA)
Petersburg City Sheriff's Office

Chief of Police Mitchell Davis
Hazel Crest (IL)
Hazel Crest Police Department

Assistant District Attorney Rene Fiechter
Mineola (NY)
Nassau County District Attorney's Office

Chief of Police Patrick Flannelly
Lafayette (IN)
Lafayette Police Department

Chief of Police Ken Hohenberg
Kennewick (WA)
Kennewick Police Department

Chief of Police Keith Humphrey
Little Rock (AR)
Little Rock Police Department

Sheriff Andy Louderback
Edna (TX)
Jackson County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Huey Mack
Bay Minette (AL)
Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

Former Interim Chief of Police Susan Manheimer
San Mateo (CA)
Oakland Police Department

Sheriff Walt McNeil
Tallahassee (FL)
Leon County Sheriff's Office

Chief of Police David Moore
Janesville (WI)
Janesville Police Department

Sheriff Gabriel Morgan
Newport News (VA)
Newport News City Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Travis Patten
Natchez (MS)
Adams County Sheriff's Office

Chief of Police Patty Patterson
Sumter (SC)
Council for a Strong America Board of Directors

Former District Attorney Michael Ramos
San Bernardino (CA)
San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office

Chief of Police David Rausch
Knoxville (TN)
Knoxville Police Department

County Attorney John Werden
Carroll (IA)
Carroll County Attorney's Office

Commonwealth Attorney Thomas Wine
Louisville (KY)
Jefferson County Commonwealth Attorney's Office

Chief of Police Michael Wynn
Pittsfield (MA)
Pittsfield Police Department

Chief of Police Michael Yaniero
Jacksonville (NC)
Jacksonville Police Department