

**REAUTHORIZATION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE
DELINQUENCY & PREVENTION ACT (JJDP)**

In 1974 the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDP) was enacted. The JJDP enables communities to aid young people who have been in contact with the Juvenile Justice System to become active and productive citizens. The Act places safeguards for youth that are in correctional facilities. These safeguards, or “core protections,” are installed to prevent youth, once released, from falling back into the same crime patterns. In 2007 the JJDP was due for reauthorization, but has failed to be reauthorized by Congress. Without the reauthorization of the JJDP, states may not be able to focus on programs funded by the Act, which will cost the government much more in the long run.

THE CORE PROTECTIONS SET IN PLACE FOR YOUTH IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM ARE:

- Deinstitutionalization of status offenders: provides that youth charged with offenses, such as truancy and running away should not be confined to juvenile facilities or adult jails or lock-ups.
- “Sight and sound” separation: provides that young people in adult jails be sight and sound separated from adult inmates.
- Jail removal: provides that youth should not be placed in adult jails and lock-ups except under very limited circumstances.
- Disproportionate minority contact: mandates that states take measures to reduce racial/ethnic disparities at key contact points in the justice system.

AS YOUNG PEOPLE, OUR HUMBLE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE...

- To reauthorize the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act which provides an opportunity to invest in strategies to prevent youth gun violence, promote positive school environments and enable communities to provide much needed support and resources for their youth.
- To support other initiatives, such as guidance, counseling, prevention programs, career explorations and youth development in schools, youth justice centers and the community.
- To educate community leaders, law enforcement officials, and probation officers through race class/cultural training, along with mental health and substance abuse treatment to reduce the amount of minority juveniles in confinement.
- To become a voice for youth and youth development.