

Copy for Letter to Congress Representative

Dear _____

I urge you to support the bipartisan Youth PROMISE Act: Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education. The Act - H.R. 1064 - was reintroduced in February 2009 by Congressmen Robert C. (Bobby) Scott (D-VA) and Mike Castle (R-DE) with 83 co-sponsors in the House. Companion legislation - S. 435 - was also introduced in the Senate by Senators Robert Casey (D-PA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME).

This initiative will support broad-based, professional community programs to reduce crime and gang involvement among youth. It is based on the advice of more than 50 experts in crime research, law enforcement, social programs, and policy. It recommends evidence-based practices and programming that has proven to be effective in reducing crime.

While other initiatives seek to apply ever harsher, punitive measures, Youth PROMISE relies on proven, researched strategies for prevention of crime before it happens. It builds infrastructures that include our communities' best advisors from mental health, the courts, schools, social service, and health care. It supports professional assessment of criminal and gang activity, and resources to address them. It calls for the development of a National Center for Proven Practices Research that will disseminate solid guidance on prevention and intervention programs.

We need to focus on prevention, rather than punishment.

As your constituent, I ask that you provide your full support for passage of this bill.

Yours
