



www.YouthPROMISEAction.org

Sponsored by The Peace Alliance &
Student Peace Alliance

Factsheet: Overview & Key Highlights

Youth PROMISE Act (H.R. 2721)

“Youth Prison Reduction Through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education Act”

SUMMARY: *The bipartisan Youth PROMISE Act will be a game changer in our nation’s approach to youth crime and gang violence. The Act makes an unprecedented investment in evidence-based, locally run prevention & intervention practices that engage and divert at-risk youth proactively, before they slip into a costly cycle of delinquency, crime, violence and incarceration.*

The Act builds on local success by empowering communities to develop custom strategies that incorporate proven violence prevention practices, such as mentoring and after-school programs, which have been shown to reduce crime more effectively and at a lower cost than incarceration.

The legislation also ensures accountability by implementing rigorous performance standards and tying a community’s funding to its success in meeting those standards.

Key Elements

1. Funds Evidence-Based Violence Prevention & Intervention Practices
2. Empowers Local Control and Community Oversight
3. Will Reduce Crime and Save Taxpayer Money
4. Creates Accountability by Linking Funding to Measurable Success

What the Legislation Will Do:

The Youth PROMISE Act will:

- **Fund, implement and evaluate** an array of evidence-based, locally controlled youth and gang violence prevention and intervention practices.
- **Hold communities accountable** by linking funding to measurable success and requiring that at least 85% of funding be spent directly on programs.
- **Create a PROMISE Advisory Panel** of state representatives to aid in assessing community needs and resources, developing and enforcing program evaluation standards and overseeing implementation.
- **Engage a wide range of community stakeholders to serve on local PROMISE Coordinating Councils**, which will develop and implement custom PROMISE Plans for their communities. The Councils will include:
 - Community and Faith-Based Groups
 - Schools, Parents and Youth
 - Courts and Law Enforcement
 - Health Providers and Social Services
 - Nonprofit Organizations and Other Stakeholders
- **Build on local strengths** by partnering with colleges and universities as regional research partners, and establishes a **National Research Center for Proven Juvenile Justice Practices**.
- Provide support for communities to hire and train **youth-oriented police officers**.

Quick Facts

House Bill: H.R. 2721

LEAD SPONSORS

House: Rep. Robert “Bobby” Scott (D-VA)
Rep. Michael Castle (R-DE)

Senate: Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA)
Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)

Please visit www.thomas.gov for a complete list of bill cosponsors.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

House: Judiciary (Passed 17-14 on 12/2/09)
Education & Labor (Needs Hearing)

Senate: Judiciary (Needs Hearing)

Who Supports It?

- The US Conference of Mayors
- A coalition of more than 250 national, state and local organizations
- City Councils of Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond, VA, among others
- Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy D. Baca

For a complete list of endorsing organizations, officials, and other supporters of the Youth PROMISE Act, please visit: www.YouthPROMISEAction.org