



[www.YouthPROMISEAction.org](http://www.YouthPROMISEAction.org)  
Sponsored by The Peace Alliance &  
Student Peace Alliance

## Factsheet: Overview & Key Highlights

### Youth PROMISE Act (H.R. 1064/S. 435)

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

**SUMMARY:** *The bipartisan Youth PROMISE Act will fill a major gap in our nation’s criminal justice-centered approach to youth delinquency, crime and violence – providing critical support for hard hit communities to invest in evidence-based, locally-driven prevention and intervention practices that engage and divert at-risk youth proactively before they commit crimes or acts of violence in the first place, and before they slip into a crushing cycle of crime, arrest and incarceration.*

*Research has shown that proactive, community-based strategies such as mentoring and after-school programs reduce crime more effectively and at a much lower cost than our current approach, under which we wait for a crime or violence to occur, then react by funneling youth through a punishing minefield of arrest, prosecution and incarceration.*

*The Youth PROMISE Act will pre-empt this cycle and save crucial taxpayer funds by empowering communities to implement custom-tailored prevention and intervention strategies, while holding them accountable by linking funding to proven metric success.*

#### Key Elements

1. Proven Prevention & Intervention Practices
2. Locally Controlled Community Plans
3. Will Cost Less than Youth Incarceration
4. Strict Oversight & Accountability
5. Funding Linked to Measurable Success

### What the Legislation Will Do

#### The Youth PROMISE Act will:

- **Fund, implement and rigorously evaluate** proven and promising, evidence-based, locally controlled youth violence prevention and intervention strategies.
- **Hold communities accountable** by regularly measuring program effectiveness, linking funding to proven metric 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 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 community. The Councils will include:
  - Community and Faith-Based Groups
  - Schools, Parents and Youth
  - Courts and Law Enforcement
  - Health Providers, Social Services and Others
- **Build on local strengths** by partnering with colleges and universities as regional research partners, and share research by setting up 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. 1064/Senate Bill: S. 435

#### 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](http://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](http://www.YouthPROMISEAction.org)*