

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT BY
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS**

WHEREAS, in 1974 Congress passed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) and established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) as a separate entity in the U.S. Department of Justice in recognition of the ineffectiveness of prior federal efforts to address juvenile justice issues within large centralized federal departments and programs; and

WHEREAS, the legislation requires OJJDP be directed by a presidentially-appointed administrator to lead the office and address all aspects of juvenile justice; and

WHEREAS, the JJDPA has not been reauthorized since 2002, and up until recently was not operating under the leadership of a presidentially-appointed administrator; and

WHEREAS, OJJDP is key in supporting local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system, and has resulted in numerous programs for the benefit of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, justice for children and families and efforts toward delinquency prevention have been significantly advanced through the enactment of the JJDPA, the leadership of OJJDP, the programs implemented through discretionary grants to national organizations and state projects with national coordination; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ has supported the original Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and its reauthorization since enactment in 1974; and

WHEREAS, the nation's juvenile and family courts are charged by Congress to ensure the fair, effective, and developmentally appropriate administration of justice for children in the foster care system and children who are delinquent and dependent; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ believes OJJDP is necessary to provide a federal partner in the field of juvenile justice; to support and administer funding for training and technical assistance to the courts and system partners; to provide objective, cost effective research and dissemination of critical statistics and reports; and conduct demonstrations of programs that work, including best practice dependency and delinquency courts, juvenile and family drug courts, truancy reduction, gang suppression, and efficient and effective juvenile delinquency programs; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ has successfully implemented many innovative and valuable programs that have improved the quality of justice for juveniles and the delivery of services for neglected and abused children; and

WHEREAS, NCJFCJ promotes the exercise of judicial leadership to convene stakeholders to improve and enhance system responses to the needs of all children, families and victims of domestic violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges fully supports and again asserts and reaffirms its support for the reauthorization of JJDPA and continuation of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and urges Congress to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act as its first order of business in 2014.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees during their meeting on November 19, 2013, Reno, Nevada.