

June 16, 2016

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Booker and Murphy and Representatives Cárdenas and Griffith:

The undersigned groups write to thank you for introducing the “At-Risk Youth Medicaid Protection Act” (S.2874, H.R.5100) and to voice support for this important legislation. Moving states toward immediate access upon reentry to critical medical and behavioral health services through access to Medicaid coverage will increase the ability of young people to achieve improved health. Such care increases the likelihood that youth can successfully return to their families and communities, continue their education or career path, and lead productive and successful lives.

Young people often return to neighborhoods with few supportive programs, high crime rates, poverty, and poor performing schools. This bill represents an important technical fix to a problem that has caused the loss of health insurance for far too many youth in the justice system. To improve public safety and reduce recidivism, young people need ready access to effective reentry services, including access to appropriate medical and behavioral health care. Young people have specific needs and we applaud you for striving to improve reentry systems and services for them.

Thank you again for your vision and leadership on these important issues that impact young people, their families, and communities nationwide. We look forward to working with you as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

ACRIA (AIDS Community Research Initiative of America)
ADAP Advocacy Association
African American Ministers in Action
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS United
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Jail Association
American Probation and Parole Association
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Boys Town
Campaign for Youth Justice
Center for Children's Law and Policy
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Home Society of America
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
Coalition for Disability Health Equity
Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Access National Network (CANN)
Community Catalyst
Criminalization of Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
CURE National
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
DC Reentry Taskforce
Families USA
Families for Justice as Healing
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Futures Without Violence
Girls Inc.
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Healthy Teen Network
Hispanic Health Network
HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA)
International Community Corrections Association
Justice For Families
Justice Policy Institute
Juvenile Law Center
Lakeshore Foundation
Latino Commission on AIDS
Latinos in the Deep South
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Lutheran Services in America
Main Street Alliance
Metropolitan Community Churches
NAACP
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations (NAGIA)
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of Counties
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equity
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Council of Urban Indian Health
National Council on Crime and Delinquency
National Disability Rights Network
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Juvenile Defender Center
National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN)
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)
National Women's Law Center
NC Justice Center
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
NMAC
Peace Alliance
Pretrial Justice Institute
Project Inform
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
RESULTS
Rights4Girls
Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps
Robert F. Kennedy Juvenile Justice Collaborative
Sandy Hook Promise
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
School Social Work Association of America
Schubert Center for Child Studies, CWRU
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Student Peace Alliance
The Arc of the United States
The Micah Leadership Council
The National Crittenton Foundation
The Sentencing Project
Treatment Communities of America
UHCAN Ohio
Union for Reform Judaism
Young Invincibles
Youth Villages