

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact your Representative and both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT H.R. 1064 / S. 435 – THE YOUTH PROMISE ACT.** To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:

The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:

The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses. To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on "*Write Your Representative*" (on the left hand side, just under "find your Representative"). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- Incarceration rates in the United States, particularly of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities, are much higher than in any other country, and costs tax payers \$65 billion a year.
- The "cradle to prison pipeline" that many African American children find themselves in must be stopped, and punitive legislation creating more punishments is not working.
- We need to invest in community-based, proven intervention and prevention strategies to help our youth, our families and our neighborhoods get out of the destructive cycle of gang violence and crime.
- **We need to enact the Youth PROMISE Act to stop youth crime and gang violence before it starts and spreads.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1064 / S. 435, THE *YOUTH PROMISE ACT*

Dear Senator / Representative _____;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to co-sponsor and support H.R. 1064 / S. 435, the *Youth PROMISE Act*, introduced by Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott (VA) in the House and Senators Robert Casey (PA) and Olympia Snowe (ME) in February 2009. This legislation would effectively address the scourge of gang violence that is decimating communities across the Nation and help tens of thousands of youth stay away from gangs and become productive members of our communities.

Rather than focusing on punitive initiatives that have limited results (other than crowding our prisons), Congressman Scott's *Youth PROMISE Act* would build on strengthening community responses to help stop young men and women from joining gangs. Under the *Youth PROMISE Act*, communities facing the greatest youth gang, delinquency and crime challenges will come together to develop and implement a comprehensive plan which addresses that community's unique assets and challenges to support young people and their families. This in turn will make our communities safer, reduce victimization and help at-risk youth become productive members of our communities.

Please contact me in the very near future to let me know what you are doing to address the serious problems facing our communities today as a result of youth violence, and what you believe I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

*Remember to contact your
Representative and BOTH
your Senators.*