

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

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May 21, 2012

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

On behalf of the leadership and more than 1,900 members of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), we are writing to thank you for signing onto the March 19 Dear Colleague letter asking CJS leadership to support FY13 Department of Justice Appropriations funding for the Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel program and Violence Against Women Court Enhancements and Improvements program. These Department of Justice Programs strengthen the ability of judges and justice professionals to protect children, families, and victims of domestic violence.

As the nation's largest judicial membership organization made up of primarily juvenile and family court judges, we know firsthand how important it is to keep families safe and stable in local communities. Judges frequently play a leadership role in convening the community to address issues of child welfare and domestic violence. Thank you for supporting judicial training and court improvements programs.

Specifically, our membership is pleased with the FY13 allocation of \$1.5 million for the Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel Program which has helped courts in New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago save \$1.3 billion in averted foster care costs, while keeping children and families safe from abuse. In addition, we greatly appreciate the inclusion of level funding for the Safe Havens Program and the VAWA Courts Programs.

Again, thank you and your professional staff for your commitment, and acknowledgment and support of the important role of the courts in keeping our communities safe. Together, we can continue to improve outcomes for children and families and reduce federal costs through research, the development of evidence-based practices, and data collection and dissemination.

Sincerely,



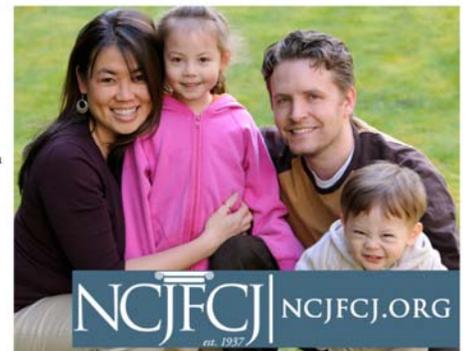
Patricia Martin
President, NCJFCJ
Presiding Judge, Child Protection
Juvenile Court of Cook County, Illinois



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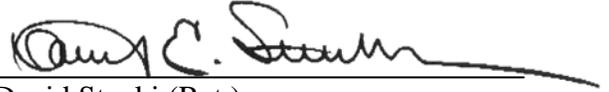
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