



June 8, 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virginia E. Sloan
President

Stephen F. Hanlon
Holland & Knight LLP
Chair

Mickey Edwards
Woodrow Wilson School of Public and
International Affairs

Morton H. Halperin

Paul C. Saunders
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Christopher Caine
Mercator XXI

Peter B. Edelman
Georgetown University Law Center

Colonel Dean M. Esserman
Providence, R.I. Police Department

Thomas A. Gottschalk
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

David A. Keene
American Conservative Union

Abner J. Mikva
University of Chicago School of Law

Corey Owens
United Food and Commercial Workers
International Union

L. Michael Seidman
Georgetown University Law Center

Roger Wilkins
George Mason University

Hubert Williams
Police Foundation

Affiliations listed for
identification purposes only

I. Scott Messinger
Chief Operating Officer

United States House of Representatives
House Judiciary Committee
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative,

The Constitution Project strongly supports Section 6 of H.R. 2289, the Juvenile Justice Accountability and Improvement Act of 2009. Section 6 dedicates much needed federal funding to the legal representation of children facing or serving life imprisonment.

The Constitution Project's National Right to Counsel Committee recently published a report on America's indigent defense system. The report, entitled *Justice Denied: America's Continuing Neglect of Our Constitutional Right to Counsel*, details many of the system's structural failures, including those pertaining to the representation of juveniles. Among a variety of urgently-needed reforms, the report stresses the need for federal funding to help spur systemic improvements. I have enclosed for your reference a copy of the report.

I hope you find this information helpful in your deliberations, and I urge you to support the inclusion of Section 6 in H.R. 2289. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Virginia E. Sloan
President