



[www.YouthPROMISEAction.org](http://www.YouthPROMISEAction.org)

Sponsored by The Peace Alliance &

Student Peace Alliance

## Factsheet: Overview & Key Highlights

### Youth PROMISE Act

(H.R. 2197, S. 1770)

## “Youth Prison Reduction Through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education Act”

**SUMMARY:** *The Youth PROMISE Act is bipartisan legislation that uses community decision making and proven programs to **save money and prevent youth violence.** In our most troubled areas, this bill will reduce crime and strengthen communities.*

*The Act will fund, implement, and evaluate an array of **evidence-based, locally controlled** youth and gang violence **prevention and intervention** practices. Programs will include proven violence prevention practices, such as mentoring and after-school programs, that have been shown to reduce crime **more effectively and at a lower cost** than incarceration. The Act will also encourage communities to **reinvest** a portion of their savings back into PROMISE Programs.*

#### Key Elements

1. Empowers Local Communities to Choose Their Own Solutions
2. Funds Evidence-Based Violence Prevention & Intervention Practices
3. Will Save Taxpayer Money While Reducing Crime

### The Legislation:

#### Makes Decisions at the Community Level.

The Youth PROMISE Act brings together a diverse coalition of community leaders to choose approaches best suited for their community, who may include:

- Community and Faith-Based Groups
- Schools, Parents and Youth
- Elected Leaders, Courts and Law Enforcement
- Health Providers and Social Services
- Nonprofit Organizations and Other Stakeholders

By making decisions in the community, the Youth PROMISE Act ensures that unique local challenges are met, local assets are properly used, and local stakeholders are fully engaged.

#### Is Accountable.

The Youth PROMISE Act will require evidence of program success to exist or be produced.

Communities will receive assistance to help them track the savings from reduced crime, and funding is structured to urge them to reinvest a portion of those savings back into PROMISE Programs.

#### Saves Money.

The current model of juvenile incarceration, costing states from **\$50,000 to \$200,000 per bed each year**, has incredibly poor results. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency found that a **program very similar to the Youth PROMISE Act** implemented in Pennsylvania **saved, on average, \$5 for every \$1 invested in prevention.** Preventative programs offer a tremendous return on investment, both in terms of budgets and in terms of lives.

### Quick Facts:

House Bill: H.R. 2197

Senate Bill: S. 1770

#### LEAD SPONSORS

- House:* Rep. Robert “Bobby” Scott (D-VA)  
Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC)  
Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA)  
Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC)
- Senate:* Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)  
Senator James Inhofe (R-OK)  
Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)  
Senator David Vitter (R-LA)

Please visit [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) for a complete list of bill cosponsors.

#### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- House:* Education & Workforce
- Senate:* Judiciary

### Who Supports It?

- The US Conference of Mayors
- A coalition of more than 250 national, state and local organizations
- The State of New Hampshire
- City Councils of Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond, VA, among others.

*For a complete list of endorsing organizations, officials, and other supporters of the Youth PROMISE Act, please visit: [www.YouthPROMISEAction.org](http://www.YouthPROMISEAction.org)*

**Prevention and intervention saves us money, and makes our communities safer and stronger.**