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Labor - Juvenile Justice



AFSCME®

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February 12, 1997

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TO: John Podesta, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President

FROM: Frank Cowan, Assistant to the President

RE: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act - Labor Protections

Both the Congress and the Administration are drafting proposals which would reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

As was the case in the last Congress, the bills being drafted by the congressional committees would repeal longstanding labor protections for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention workers. The protections, found in Section 223 (a) 19, preserve collective bargaining rights for thousands of state workers in the court and juvenile justice systems. The repeal of these protections would potentially affect thousands of AFSCME workers.

The Administration's proposal retains the current language regarding the labor protections. However, we have been told by staff at the Justice Department that they will not defend the labor provisions. They are only concerned about the programmatic aspects of the proposals.

I would like to ask your assistance in reaching out to the Justice Department and to urge them, when appropriate, to defend and advocate for the labor protections in the reauthorization proposal. Give me a call if you need more information or have questions.

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File -
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