



The Peace Alliance



STUDENT PEACE ALLIANCE

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## **Youth PROMISE Act Elevator Speech**

(Time: less than 1 minute)

The Youth PROMISE Act as proposed in the House and Senate is a breakthrough piece of legislation that will implement and fund evidence-based practices related to juvenile justice and criminal gang activity. It will work to interrupt the cradle to prison pipeline that is far too common today -- by supporting proven prevention and intervention strategies. The act will not just encourage, but require local leadership and oversight of these programs through community based committees.

All credible research shows that prevention programs for at-risk youth WORK. They will greatly reduce crime and save much more than they cost. And most importantly, these programs save lives.

I support the Youth PROMISE Act because it will provide for programs that empower our youth while creating a lasting legacy of community health for generations to come.

## **Youth PROMISE Act Small Speech**

(Time: less than 2 minutes)

The Youth PROMISE Act as proposed in the House and Senate is a breakthrough piece of legislation that will implement and fund evidence-based practices related to juvenile justice and criminal gang activity. It will work to interrupt the cradle to prison pipeline that is far too common today -- by supporting proven prevention and intervention strategies. This act will not just encourage, but require local leadership and oversight.

I'm working to support this legislation for many reasons. First, occurrences of youth violence have reached epidemic proportions right now in the United States. For example, you may be surprised to learn that homicide is the second leading cause of death for young people ages 10-24, and of that age group, homicide is the leading cause of death for African-Americans.

The Youth PROMISE Act would provide one of the most comprehensive and powerful set of resources ever used to approach the tragic challenges of youth violence and delinquency. This kind of support is long past due. The challenges we face demand that we propose and implement significantly more proactive solutions.

Using proven intervention and prevention based programs, The Youth PROMISE Act calls for local councils to develop a custom-tailored PROMISE plan for their community. The continual evaluation of these plans for performance standards holds each community accountable for their funding. All credible research shows that evidenced-based prevention programs for at-risk youth will greatly reduce crime and save much more than they cost. And most importantly, these programs save lives.

This is a piece of legislation that will be a beacon of hope and real possibility for youth and communities across the country, helping to interrupt longstanding cycles of hopelessness and despair. It will provide for programs that empower our youth while creating a lasting legacy of community health for generations to come.

## Youth PROMISE Act Interactive Speech

Did you know that the second leading cause of death of our youth in this country is homicide? And for African American youth, homicide is #1!

When I learned that it kept me awake, and still does when I really think about it.

(invite response)

But there is something we can do that could change EVERYTHING.  
PASS and FUND the Youth PROMISE Act.

The Youth PROMISE Act is an acronym that means Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education and represents a bill before the House and Senate.

Personally I love this bill for four reasons:

The act will implement and fund **evidence-based practices and programs** that reduce juvenile delinquency and crime. This will save lives and spare thousands of people untold suffering.

Secondly this bill will save us money. The cost of incarceration for youth is between \$80-100k per year. Surely early prevention which costs between \$30-\$200 per child could save taxpayers a fortune. In addition to incarceration there are medical, court, law enforcement and education costs. We must take this approach out of economic necessity.

Third, this bill will support “evidence based” programs with local planning and oversight. It will create local organizing teams to create community tailored plans. This kind of oversight will ensure better planning for the money and strong oversight of responsible implementation. An element strongly needed in our government programs.

Fourth, by helping young people succeed and become a positive force within their communities, we can interrupt the cradle to prison pipeline. We can bring hope and ensure the futures of our most vulnerable youth.

Youth violence has reached epidemic proportions right now in the United States.

The Youth PROMISE Act would provide one of the most comprehensive and powerful set of resources in modern times to approach the tragic challenges of youth violence and delinquency. And this support is long past due. The challenges we face demand of us more proactive solutions.

Will you \_\_\_\_\_? (Insert relevant request here)

This is a piece of legislation that will be a beacon of hope and real possibility for youth and communities across the country, helping to interrupt longstanding cycles of hopelessness and despair. It will provide programs that will empower our kids while creating a lasting legacy community health for generations to come.