



5,000 Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,
Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement
Leaders, and Violence Survivors
Preventing Crime and Violence

February 10, 2014

Dear Representative:

The 65 Utah law enforcement leaders and nearly 5,000 other members of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS know from the front lines against crime—and from the research—what it takes to prevent crime and make our communities safer. Investments in our youngest children are the most effective and fiscally responsible approaches to crime reduction, and will save our state far more taxpayer dollars than they cost. **Because of this, we ask you to support HB 96 and ongoing efforts to provide targeted, high-quality preschool for economically disadvantaged children.**

The research clearly shows that early childhood development and learning systems not only substantially improve academic outcomes, such as reading by third grade, but also have a profound impact on reducing later crime and violence. For example, at-risk kids who were left out of the high-quality High/Scope Perry Preschool program were five times more likely to be chronic offenders (more than 4 arrests) by age 27 than those who participated. Those left out were twice as likely to have been placed in special education. The children who participated were 44% more likely to graduate from high school than similar kids left out of the program. Additionally, the Perry Preschool program saved an average of more than \$200,000 per child. These savings came from reduced education costs and repeated grades, as well as reduced criminal justice system costs.

As law enforcement leaders here in Utah who have seen far too many children start school unprepared and later turn to a life of crime, we urge your support on HB 96 and continued support for preschool for disadvantaged children.

Sincerely,

Chief Steve Adams
Spanish Fork

s/

Chief David Booth
Heber City

Chief Bill Chilson
Clinton

Chief Doug Diamond
West Jordan

Sheriff Rick Eldredge
San Juan County

Chief Brad James
Salem

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Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a membership organization of law enforcement leaders and crime victims
under the umbrella non-profit Council for a Strong America

s/
Chief Greg Krusi
Clearfield




Chief Sam Leonard
East Carbon



Chief Johnny McCoy
Smithfield



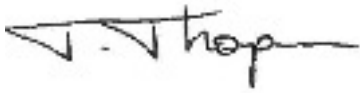
Sheriff Frank Park
Tooele County



Chief Dean L. Pettersson
Mapleton



Chief Tom Ross
Bountiful



Sheriff Terry Thompson
Weber County



Chief Paul Tittensor
Brigham City

s/
Chief Dave Nance
Tremonton