

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA-03) will hold a summit on Youth Violence on Wednesday, December 3, 2008. Congressman Scott has invited experts from law enforcement, academia, gang intervention programs, and child advocacy groups to address the need for evidence-based strategies for juvenile justice prevention and intervention.

The Summit will address in particular Rep. Scott's Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act or "Youth PROMISE Act" (H.R. 3846).

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"There are many communities suffering from gang related and juvenile crimes," Rep. Scott said. "We know that there are multiple strategies that are cost effective in reducing these crimes and that will save communities money they would otherwise spend on incarceration and welfare programs for these youth. The summit will explore these strategies further as policymakers prepare for the 111th Congress."

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Appearing with Rep. Scott will be Marian Wright Edelman, President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF). **Mrs. Edelman is a lifelong advocate for disadvantaged Americans and under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families.** "The Cradle to Prison Pipeline", a 2007 CDF-issued report, emphasized the need for more prevention services to break the "pipeline" that research shows will send 1 in 3 Black boys born in 2000 to jail at some point in their life.

There will also be four panel presentations. The first panel will look at a new study comparing current legislation and policy positions to determine which are most effective.

The second panel will feature members of law enforcement who will give their perspective on the need for additional prevention efforts.

The third panel will highlight examples of current effective programs and interventions.

The final panel will address the comparative benefits of effective crime prevention.

Panelists will include: Barry Krisberg, President of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency; Judith Greene of Justice Strategies; Frank Straub, Commissioner of Public Safety, White Plains, NY; Shay Bilchik, Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and Systems Integration, Georgetown Public Policy Institute; Miriam Krinsky and Jorja Leap, both of the UCLA School of Public Affairs; Khalid Samad, Executive Director and Co-founder of Peace in the Hood, Cleveland, OH; Teny Gross, Executive Director of the Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence; Brian Bumbarger, Director of the Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center, Pennsylvania State University; Larry Cohen, Director of the Prevention Institute; and Lynn White, Senior Policy Associate on Juvenile Justice at the Children's Defense Fund.

The summit will take place in Room 2175 of the Rayburn House Office Building from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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