



January 6, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building 224

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building 152

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

Boys & Girls Clubs of America would like to share its commendation of Senator Jeff Sessions.

Senator Sessions' relationship with the Boys & Girls Clubs transcends his political career and he has consistently demonstrated the importance of mentoring at-risk youth. Before becoming Senator, Jeff Sessions served on the board of the Mobile, Alabama Boys & Girls Club. In Alabama, Boys & Girls Clubs of America serves 42,850 youth at 76 Club sites and plays a key role helping those at greatest risk. In 1999, Senator Sessions hosted then-Attorney General Ashcroft at an Alabama club highlighting for the Attorney General the critical role Clubs play through the Department of Justice's youth mentoring program. Together with Senator Sessions, we have advocated for the importance of youth development programs focused on at-risk youth.

For more than 155 years, Boys & Girls Clubs have served young people from challenging circumstances – in every State – helping them develop the skills and abilities to become productive, caring, and responsible citizens. As part of our mission, Boys & Girls Clubs annually serve nearly 4 million kids at over 4,200 Clubs nationwide and around the world on U.S. military installations. We achieve our mission through innovative Club programming that focuses on Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles.

As our National Youth Outcomes Initiative Report has found, 85% of our Club members, in the 9th through 12th grades, abstain from using alcohol compared to the national average of 65%. Additionally, Club members in 5th through 12th grades who attend a Club at least once a week, the study found that bullying occurs 10% below the national average given the Clubs' safe environment. Though much remains to be done to address the needs of the Nation's at-risk-youth, our results demonstrate the positive impacts Clubs make in the lives of its members. When these impacts are combined with the fact that, for every \$1 invested, Boys & Girls Clubs return \$9.60 in current and future earnings, it is a powerful combination.

We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

James L. Clark
President and CEO