

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**  
**SENATOR, 63<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT**

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February 13, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to express my strong support for the Youth Prison Prevention Project (YPPP). Over the previous three years, YPPP, led by Robert Harris, has worked to prevent children from entering the prison system through a variety of methods. These include mentoring, direct family assistance, prison prevention workshops and their Talent Development Program. I applaud YPPP for their work to keep kids on the right track – it is helping to keep families together and make Buffalo a better place for everyone.

Many of the children helped by YPPP are affected by difficult issues such as poverty, broken families, negative peer pressure and drug addiction. Their programs help kids make better choices by taking the time to fully explain to them the consequences of bad actions, arming them with the knowledge and understanding they need to make informed decisions. This information includes the types of acts that will get them in trouble, and what they can expect to face if they are in prison.

YPPP recognizes that one of the biggest causes of violence and crime is unemployment. To combat this, YPPP works with youth to encourage talent development and entrepreneurship, allowing them to provide for themselves and their family. There are currently over 26,000 youths in correctional facilities throughout the country, and I am proud that we have an organization like YPPP here in Buffalo working to bring that number down.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and I hope that the Youth Prison Prevention Project's worthy application for funding from your organization is met with approval. If you have any questions or if I may be of assistance, please contact me in my district office at 716.826.2683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy M. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Timothy M. Kennedy  
New York State Senator, 63<sup>rd</sup> District