



U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**JOIN US FOR A BIPARTISAN BRIEFING:
Reduce Crime, Reduce Costs, and Improve Lives and
Communities through Evidence-Based Prevention**

**Hosted by Congressmen Bobby Scott and Walter Jones
Monday, February 27th
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
2237 Rayburn**

February 22, 2012

Dear Colleague:

You and your staff are invited to join us on Monday, February 27, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in 2237 Rayburn House Office Building, for a discussion of evidence-based crime reduction strategies that have been shown to consistently prevent crime, save money, saves lives, and save communities.

Crime continues to be an issue of much concern at the federal, state and local level. Much of the attention in criminal justice has been given to erecting harsh punishments and facilities in response to crime. This approach has resulted in enormous costs at all governmental levels which have proven to be unsustainable.

The focus of this discussion will be on how to reduce crime and its costs, human and financial, by preventing crimes **BEFORE** they occur as opposed to waiting for the crimes to occur and then reacting to them, as we have mostly done in the past. Evidence-based crime prevention strategies, such as those referenced in H.R. 2721, the Youth **P**rison **R**eduction through **O**pportunities, **M**entoring, **I**ntervention, **S**upport and **E**ducation, or “**PROMISE**” Act, have been shown to prevent crime **AND** save money when compared to what would otherwise be spent on responding to crimes **AFTER** they occur. While this approach takes nothing from the need to respond to crimes that do occur, or from the good sense of responding to them in a cost effective manner, the question is why wait to respond?

Speakers will include **Dr. Catherine Gallagher**, Director of the Cochrane Collaboration College for Policy & Associate Professor of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University, who will speak about how evidenced-based approaches have been shown to reduce crime and costs; **Pat Nolan**, Vice President of of Prison Fellowship, who will speak from a religious and conservative organization's perspective about the need to reform our strategies in criminal justice to cost-effective approaches; **Gabriel Morgan**, Sheriff of the City of Newport News, Virginia, who will speak about the value of evidence-based crime prevention from a law enforcement perspective; and **Tracy Velázquez**, Executive Director of the Justice Policy Institute, who will speak about the proven effectiveness of research and evidence-based strategies in preventing crime and reducing costs.

We now have the tools and the know-how to decisively impact crime in this country. This briefing will be informative and transformative in showing how we can cost-effectively reduce crime, bringing relief to those who would otherwise be victims of crime, to young people who would otherwise be caught up in a life of crime, to tax payers who would otherwise have to pay for the growing costs of crime, and to communities that would otherwise lose the contributions of those caught up in the web of crime.

We look forward to seeing you.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

/s/

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress