



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
1156 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NW SUITE 915 · WASHINGTON, DC 20005 · P (202) 463-2940 · F (202) 463-2953  
E-MAIL: WASHINGTONBUREAU@NAACPNET.ORG · WEB ADDRESS WWW.NAACP.ORG

December 12, 2007

Members  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

via fax

**RE: NAACP SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3846, THE *YOUTH PROMISE ACT***

Dear Representative;

On behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to co-sponsor and support H.R. 3846, the *Youth PROMISE Act*, introduced by Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott (VA) on October 16, 2007. This legislation would effectively address the scourge of gang violence that is decimating communities across the Nation and help tens of thousands of youth stay away from gangs and become productive members of our communities.

Rather than focusing on punitive initiatives that have limited results (other than crowding our prisons), Congressman Scott's *Youth PROMISE Act* would build on strengthening community responses to help stop young men and women from joining gangs. Under the *Youth PROMISE Act*, communities facing the greatest youth gang, delinquency and crime challenges will come together to develop and implement a comprehensive plan which addresses that community's unique assets and challenges to support young people and their families. This in turn will make our communities safer, reduce victimization and help at-risk youth become productive members of our communities.

Again, on behalf of the NAACP, I would like to strongly urge you to support and co-sponsor the *Youth PROMISE Act*. Thank you in advance for your attention to the NAACP position. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,

Hilary O. Shelton  
Director