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5,000 Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,  
 Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement  
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 Preventing Crime and Violence

April 29, 2009

Dear Member:

As law enforcement leaders in Texas, we strongly encourage you to support investments in kids by funding House Bill 130/Senate Bill 21 to ensure that the quality of Pre-Kindergarten in Texas is improved and availability is expanded.

On behalf of members of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS, a national organization of over 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and violence survivors, including 186 in Texas, we strongly believe that investments in pre-kindergarten are the best way to help kids get the right start in life and to succeed in school, which in turn, will significantly reduce crime. We know that Texas can achieve more in this area, by increasing access to proven programs that help our youngest children develop into strong students and citizens.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, there were 166,976 arrests of juveniles during 2006 in Texas. Despite the best efforts of law enforcement, this number will not go down unless serious measures are taken before -not only after- crimes occur. Quality early education prepares children to learn, reinforces respect and responsibility for others, and reduces behavior problems that can spiral out of control. Further, research shows that at-risk children left out of quality pre-kindergarten programs are five times more likely to be chronic offenders by age 27 than at-risk children who are enrolled in quality early education settings.

Investing in early childhood is also one of the most cost-effective and sensible ways to strengthen our communities and to keep them safer. We sincerely hope that in the coming years we can improve the quality of pre-kindergarten in Texas and greatly expand the number of families who have the opportunity to participate in these high-quality early education programs.

We are willing to provide whatever support you feel would help to make this goal a reality and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

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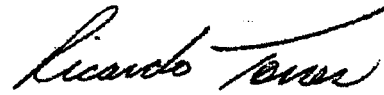
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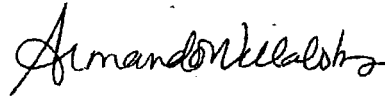
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Wolfforth

Paul Thompson  
Chief of Police  
New London

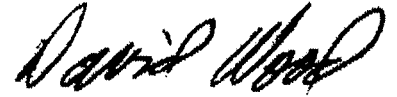
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