

Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 2:15 PM
Subject: Support the G.R.E.A.T Program

If you have not been made aware the G.R.E.A.T program (Gang Resistance Education and Training) was removed from the President's budget. If you support this valuable program I would ask that you take the time to email a short letter (a few paragraphs to various congressmen/women). Especially those on the appropriations committee as they have the ability to make the needed change. For those congressional members not on the committee I would ask that you write them a separate letter requesting that they send a "Dear Colleague" letter to their peers and appropriation members to:

Restore \$20 million as a line item to BJA for the G.R.E.A.T program.

It is important that you list **Restore \$20 million as a line item to BJA for the G.R.E.A.T program** in your letter so they know what you are asking for specifically. This is also time sensitive-before the end of March.

I have attached a FACT sheet so you can utilize it to create your letter as you see fit. It is suggested that all write their own letter (do not use one generic one for several people) and to email or fax it, along with the fact sheet/maps. Please forward to as many people as possible-the more support we can generate the greater chance of success we have for the funding.

This program is showing positive results and there has been approximately 2.5 million dollars invested in a study that is currently on-going regarding the effectiveness of the G.R.E.A.T program. The current measures show that G.R.E.A.T students have lower membership in gangs and lower rates of self-reported delinquency. It would be terrible if the program was eliminated before the study was concluded.

Gangs are a growing issue and this program is necessary for children to develop strong relationships with Law Enforcement personnel, avoid gang membership and to prevent violence/criminal activity.

Furthermore, as a Commander I have witnessed several cases that were solved due to students assisting Law Enforcement.

The Metropolitan Nashville Police Department is one of four G.R.E.A.T training regional centers in the Nation. Our region represents the Southeast region which covers 13 states and Puerto Rico .

Thank you for your support and consideration in this matter. I have attached a Fact Sheet for your review and if you need anything further please do not hesitate to contact Sgt Mary Lee who is the Regional Administrator for our G.R.E.A.T program:

615-862-4029
mary.lee@nashville.gov

Links of interest:

http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml

<http://www.great-online.org/reorganization.aspx>

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