



Hundreds of Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,
District Attorneys, other Law Enforcement
Leaders, and Violence Survivors Preventing
Crime and Violence

April 14, 2010

Contact: Jennifer Ortega, (916) 837-3904, jortega@calfightcrime.org

Oakland Police Chief Talks to Lawmakers About Investing in Crime-Prevention Programs

Law enforcement leaders visit State Capitol, present Crime Fighter awards

SACRAMENTO – Members of a statewide anti-crime organization made up of 400 police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys and victims of violence went to the State Capitol today to urge legislators and administration staff to protect state-funded programs proven to keep children from becoming involved in crime.

Oakland Police Chief Anthony Batts and other FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *California* members from throughout the state participated in individual meetings with 20 lawmakers and staff, and met with key officials from the Governor's office.

“Law enforcement leaders know that we cannot arrest our way out of crime-plagued communities,” said FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS State Director Barrie Becker. “Prevention and intervention are key to ensuring public safety. Programs that keep kids safe and away from criminal influences also help them do well in school and stay on track for productive futures.”

Protecting Funding

In their meetings with both Republican and Democratic legislators and administration officials, members of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *California* called on elected officials to maintain state funding for programs – including dropout-prevention efforts, after-school programs, high-quality preschool, and interventions for juvenile offenders and troubled youth – which are proven to keep kids away from crime.

The group also touted a new FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS report showing that although California is leading the nation in its commitment to after-school programs, nearly 2,000 low-income schools still do not have access to such programs. The report, titled “California’s After-School Commitment: Keeping Kids On Track and Out of Trouble,” highlights the crime-prevention benefits of after-school programs, which keep kids off the streets during the prime time for juvenile crime.

Crime Fighter Awards

The bipartisan organization presented a “Crime Fighter” award to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for expanding access to state-funded preschool, championing Proposition 49 – the After School Education and Safety Act – and expanding intervention resources for kids in the juvenile justice system.

Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) was also honored for his efforts to build a more comprehensive educational data system that will help prevent dropouts and, in turn, protect public safety. The group also presented an award to Assemblymember Bill Berryhill (R-Stockton) in recognition of his

commitment to improve early education opportunities for youth in his district and address the state's dropout crisis.

To see the organization's complete legislative agenda, please contact Jennifer Ortega at jortega@calfightcrime.org.

###

***Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California** is a bipartisan, non-profit, anti-crime organization led by 400 sheriffs, police chiefs, district attorneys, and victims of violence. Its mission is to take a critical look at the research about what really works to keep kids from becoming criminals. Among the strategies proven to be effective are preschool, after-school, dropout-prevention, child abuse and neglect prevention programs, and intensive interventions for juvenile offenders. www.fightcrime.org/ca*