



The majority of Emily's work at Voices for Ohio's Children focused on the juvenile justice system. Through different research projects, Emily came to understand many of the challenges of the current system and several of the laws and initiatives that aim to address these challenges. She was able to use her communication skills to take that research and frame the writing for different audiences and purposes. The ability to hone a message for varied target groups is extremely important in the public relations and journalism industries, two careers that Emily is strongly considering. Emily enjoyed her exposure to the field of advocacy and spent her time focused primarily on the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

POLICY RESEARCH: THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act ("JJCPA") was first passed in 1974 to improve states' juvenile justice systems and, in particular, treatment of youth in correctional facilities. The JJCPA is up for reauthorization during the 2009-2010 Congressional session as Senate Bill 678. Among other things, the reauthorization includes evidence in the findings based on more current social research about child development and the needs of youth in the juvenile justice system, and seeks to expand the availability of programs to address the needs of at-risk youth and youth in the juvenile justice system.¹

Each year, juvenile courts handle an estimated 1.6 million delinquency cases and adjudicate youth delinquent in nearly 7 of every 10 petitioned

¹ Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2009, S. 678, 111th Congress. Sections 101-102 (2009).