



Gennifer spent the summer following her junior year working as an extern with The Village Network. As an extern, Gennifer was asked to research the history and gain an understanding of the implications of the *Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act* (Pub. L. 109-248). The Adam Walsh Act was signed into law by President George W. Bush on July 27, 2006. It stipulated that states must comply with the legislation by July 27, 2009, or risk losing 10% of a federal law enforcement grant. The Ohio General Assembly chose to implement the legislation this year of tm2ehe O,3r9g

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After extensive research, and in collaboration with her mentors at the Village Network, Gennifer synthesized her findings into a set of materials advocating for changes to Ohio Senate Bill 10. She created a policy brief, presentation, and talking points outlining the problematic aspects of the Act and changes that would address these issues.

Gennifer's materials put forth the position that the Act should be modified to address the differences between child and adult offenders. She argues that requiring young offenders to register on the sex offender registry puts these children at risk for violence and detracts from law enforcement's ability to track individuals who pose a much greater risk to society. Also, she argues, the law fails to recog-

nize the different developmental stage and cognitive capacity of youth and imposes adult penalties on children without giving them the right to due process, including a jury trial. Gennifer concludes that the responsibility for punishing juvenile offenders should be returned to the juvenile courts to allow for careful consideration of the unique needs of youth.