Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the Latino Legislative Caucus and the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, we invite you to join us at a Juvenile Justice System Summit scheduled for April 24 and 25, 2008, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles. Juvenile Justice in California is a vital issue that devastates individuals and families today and impacts our entire social fabric tomorrow. Two of three children today involved in the Juvenile Justice System are Latino children. The cost of incarcerating juveniles in California is many times what it costs to educate children. These children represent the future of our state, not to mention its economic well-being. Our goal in this summit is to bring together expert and experienced individuals from the field offering multiple perspectives. These perspectives will focus on policy initiatives in three critical areas:

- Meeting the Challenges of Youth Offenders
- Addressing Prevention and Opportunity
- Exploring Alternative Sanctions

The Summit begins Thursday, April 24th with a reception, dinner and opportunity to informally discuss issues. Friday, April 25th focuses on three intense, interactive panel discussions. The summit ends with direct feedback from the Members of the legislature.

We expect many of the 26 Latino Members of the California legislature to be present as well as other interested legislators. Invitations will also go to all Latino elected public officials in California as well as dedicated experts in juvenile justice. We expect 150 participants. This summit will lead to proposed legislation and important policy decisions.

We will be honored to share this important summit with you. The Westin Bonaventure has set aside a block of rooms at a special rate for this event. Please contact Miguel Martinez in my office to RSVP at (916) 319-2023, Miguel.Martinez@asm.ca.gov, for any assistance.

Sincerely,

JOE COTO
Chair