

# Senate Family & Veterans' Services Committee

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THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
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COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Office of Juvenile Justice  
And Delinquency Prevention  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC

Re: Solicitation # OJJDP-2020-17926

Dear OJJDP:

I am pleased to join Pace Center for Girls in the above-referenced grant application to provide services to children exposed to violence in their homes, schools, and communities in South Carolina. For some months, Pace has been working with leaders in our state to bring its nationally recognized model to South Carolina. Our state needs to strengthen its programs for prevention of juvenile justice involvement and to help young people from struggling families to find a better path for the lives. This is especially true with children who are exposed to violence.

Pace's history of community collaboration and its holistic approach to at-risk girls will help us build a stronger foundation for this important work. At the suggestion of our director of the Department of Juvenile Justice, Pace has focused its attention on the Darlington-Florence area of our state for its first program. Both counties have rates of violent crime significantly above the state average. Both have areas designated as Opportunity Zones because of exceptional levels of poverty.

We need the collaborative problem-solving this grant will support, and Pace is an organization with proven results. This three-year grant will enable Pace to enlarge its plans and bring its experience to create a Girls Coordinating Council and collaborate with others in those communities to develop better data and identify service gaps and barriers. Supported by this grant, Pace can lead and staff this community focus on data and resources to help children exposed to violence in their homes, schools, and communities. What we create in Florence and Darlington counties will become a model for other areas of need in our state. I pledge our support to Pace in developing this community collaboration.

Thank you for your work in helping states and communities reduce violent crime and help those who are its victims.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katrina F. Shealy".

Senator Katrina F. Shealy, *Chairman*  
SC Senate Family & Veterans' Services Committee