

## SEARCH Resolution 87-06

Of the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

May 6, 1987

### **Reauthorization of BJS, BJA, NIJ and OJJDP**

**WHEREAS** Public Law 96-157, the Justice System Improvement Act of 1979 (JSIA) amended the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to create, within the Department of Justice, three distinct agencies, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ); and

**WHEREAS** the JSIA assured the independence of each of these agencies by making the director of each agency a Presidential appointee, and by giving to each such director plenary power over the agency through the express grant of final authority to the director for all grants, cooperative agreements and contracts; and

**WHEREAS** Public Law 98-473, the Justice Assistance Act of 1984, amended the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize BJS, OJJDP and NIJ through September 30, 1988, to reaffirm the independence of these agencies, and to create, within the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to be headed by an Attorney General appointee with final authority for all grants, cooperative agreements and contracts, and to create, within the Department of Justice, the Office of Justice Programs, to be headed by an assistant attorney general and to, among other things, provide staff support to coordinate the activities of BJA, NIJ, BJS and OJJDP; and

**WHEREAS** in view of the expiration of the statutory authorization for BJS, BJA, NIJ and OJJDP in September of 1988, the Congress is expected, in 1987, to begin consideration of legislation to reauthorize these agencies; and

**WHEREAS** the independence enjoyed by these agencies is a necessary and critical element in their effective operation over the last eight years; and

**WHEREAS** SEARCH was officially on record in 1979 and in 1984 as supporting those provisions in the JSIA and in the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 which assure the independence of these agencies by making the directors Presidential appointees (except for BJA) and by giving those directors final authority for grants, cooperative agreements and contracts;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Membership Group of SEARCH Group, Inc. hereby reaffirms SEARCH's support for the existing statutory language in the Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1968, as amended by the JSIA and the Justice Assistance Act of 1984, and calls upon the Congress to reauthorize BJS, BJA, NIJ and OJJDP through September 30, 1992, by readopting this language and thereby guaranteeing the independence and integrity of these agencies.