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**Congress of the United States**  
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April 8, 2016

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

I am concerned about continuing racial inequalities in the juvenile justice system in Memphis and Shelby County.

Despite efforts to improve our local juvenile court, African-American youths continue to be overrepresented.<sup>1</sup>

As you know, in 2012, the Department of Justice found that the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, "fails to provide constitutionally required due process to all children appearing for delinquency proceedings, that the court's administration of juvenile justice discriminates against African-American children, and that its detention center violates the substantive due process rights of detained youth by not providing them with reasonably safe conditions of confinement."<sup>2</sup>

While I am grateful for the Department of Justice's efforts, I am eager to know what the Department plans to do, going forward, to resolve these problems and how much longer it anticipates it will take to do so.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/dept-of-justice-counsel-details-juvenile-court-problems-2fbecdd3-957c-0679-e053-0100007fbdc7-374980431.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/departments-justice-releases-investigative-findings-juvenile-court-memphis-and-shelby-county>