



THE “COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH JUSTICE AMENDMENT ACT OF 2016”

Building a Model Juvenile Justice System in the District of Columbia

The “Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016” makes sweeping reforms to the District of Columbia’s juvenile justice system.

How can you get involved?

Share information about the bill with your neighbors, family, and friends

Contact your Councilmember to express your support

Join in on the conversation on social media using the hashtag [#youthjusticenow](#)

Learn more at kenyanmcduffie.com, follow us on Twitter @CM_McDuffie, and like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/KenyanRMcDuffie](https://www.facebook.com/KenyanRMcDuffie)

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Prevents Children from Entering the Criminal Justice System

- ✓ Ensures that juveniles are not detained unnecessarily before a court hearing
- ✓ Permits the sealing of juvenile arrest records
- ✓ Expands voluntary victim-offender mediation services as an alternative to prosecution

Reduces Overincarceration

- ✓ Protects children under the age of 10 from being committed to the custody of the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (“DYRS”) with older children
- ✓ Prohibits the detention of “status offenders”, juveniles who commit minor offenses such as running away from home
- ✓ Ends the commitment of status offenders at age 18

Provides Age-Appropriate Sentences for Children

- ✓ Follows Supreme Court precedent by banning the use of juvenile life without parole sentences
- ✓ Eliminates mandatory minimum sentences for juveniles and restores judicial discretion
- ✓ Provides juveniles charged as adults with long sentences an opportunity for release after serving 20 years

Improves the Conditions of Confinement

- ✓ Transfers all detained juveniles from adult facilities to DYRS
- ✓ Bans the use of disciplinary segregation, also known as solitary confinement
- ✓ Sets time limits on the use of room confinement and requires screenings by a health or mental health professional
- ✓ Creates a parent manual to engage and educate parents of detained juveniles

Expands Oversight of Services

- ✓ Allows data sharing between agencies to improve oversight of diversion programs
- ✓ Collects data to evaluate the performance of DYRS
- ✓ Requires an analysis of the root causes of juvenile crime