

## **Gearing Up for Your Legislative Session: A Campaign Approach to Ending the Practice of Prosecuting Youth as Adults**

A number of you have said that you'll be launching your campaign in early 2012 potentially as part of the new legislative session in your state. To gear up for your session, here's a sample timeline with three key activities for each month:

### August

- Identify all the possible legislative recommendations that you might consider making to legislators during the session.
- Gather background information on the legislative process, timing of moving a bill, and the key players on the committees that your possible legislative recommendations would be considered by.
- Find out which of your allied statewide organizations have scheduled advocacy days at the capitol in the 2012 session.

### September

- Schedule a strategy session with your core group to decide on and prioritize your legislative recommendations.
- Contact allied statewide organizations that have scheduled advocacy days at the capitol in the 2012 session and see if you can get your legislative recommendations on their agenda.
- Map out your base of allies with all the key legislators who have decision making power over your potential legislative recommendations.

### October

- Host a legislative strategy session with your core group and allies to decide how you will push your agenda.
- Create an Action Team with your core group and allies to build and strengthen relationships with key legislators.
- Write your legislative recommendations into legislative language or ask an attorney to write on a pro bono basis.

### November

- Organize a legislative training session for your Action Team.
- Identify who may oppose your legislative recommendations and discuss how you will overcome that.

- Create and/or update your media contact lists.

### December

- Vet your bill with other groups and line up their support.
- Identify and recruit bill sponsor(s).
- Create a timeline for legislative session.

### January

- Create a fact sheet on your bill(s).
- Write a media release to use with the introduction of your bill(s).
- Draft an action alert to send to your networks to support the bill once introduced.