

CAMPAIGN FOR
YOUTH JUSTICE
 BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR

April 2010 Newsletter

The Campaign for Youth Justice is a national organization dedicated to ending the practice of sentencing, and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Virginia Removes Pretrial Youth from Adult Jails!

On April 13, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell signed into law a new measure that will help keep youth in Virginia out of adult jails. SB 259, which passed unanimously out of both the Virginia House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate, creates a presumption that youth who are being tried as adults are held in juvenile detention centers pretrial and will only be placed in an adult jail if they are found by a judge to be a security or safety threat. This is a significant change to current law which provides no standards or presumptions for transferred or certified youth and has resulted in youth as young as 14 years old spending extensive time in adult jails where they lack access to treatment and education services and are exposed to potential harm and victimization.

The new law, which goes into effect on July 1, 2010, provides clear standards for judges regarding where to hold youth pending trial. Meanwhile, the Virginia State Crime Commission continues to study Virginia's juvenile transfer system which may provide further legislative recommendations at the end of the calendar

year.

Numerous families and youth and a wide range of organizations, including the [Don't Throw Away the Key Campaign](#) were instrumental in supporting the passage of SB 259. Additionally, SB 259 received favorable editorial coverage in both The Washington Post and The Virginian-Pilot during the General Assembly session.

The full text of SB 259 is available at <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?101+ful+SB259E>. For more information on SB 259 and the continued efforts of the Don't Throw Away the Key Campaign contact Kate Duvall at the JustChildren Program of the Legal Aid Justice Center at kate@justice4all.org or 434.977.0553 ext. 146.

Colorado "Direct File" Legislation Introduced

Jessica Sandoval

On Friday, April 16, Colorado legislators introduced House Bill 1413, legislation to reform the state's existing direct file statute which allows district attorneys to charge a child as an adult without judicial review. HB 1413 would:

- Remove 14- and 15-year-olds from direct file eligibility except for first and second degree murder and many sex offenses. District attorneys can still request that these youth be moved to adult court but will have to do so at a transfer hearing in front of a judge rather than making this decision independently;
- Add a 14-day notice of direct filing for all ages except for first and second degree murder and sex offenses;
- Require district attorneys to consider many factors in the decision to direct file charges against a youth. These factors must be specific to the individual child and the alleged offense and be submitted in writing upon the decision to direct file;
- Expand youthful offender system eligibility to include class 2 felony non-sex offenses. The youthful offender system allows youth to petition the courts after three years to convert their felony conviction to a juvenile offense; and
- Expand juvenile sentencing eligibility for all ages on nonviolent crimes upon a finding of special circumstances.

HB 1413 is currently sponsored by Colorado State Representatives Claire Levy (D-Boulder), House Minority Leader Mike May (R-Parker), and House Speaker Terrance Carroll (D-Denver). Hearings on legislation are expected in the coming weeks.

The text of HB 1413 is available at

http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2010a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/A49AF845C0A4291A872576D2008110BEopen&file=1413_01.pdf.

Campaign Provides Testimony at Nevada Hearing

On Wednesday, April 14, CFYJ's CEO Liz Ryan provided testimony before Nevada's Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. The Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice is an ongoing statutory committee of the Nevada Legislature which meets between the biennial sessions of the

Legislature and consists of three members from the Senate and three members from the Assembly. The Committee reviews and evaluates issues relating to the provision of child welfare services and juvenile justice in the state and recommends legislation concerning child welfare and juvenile justice to the Legislature.

On this occasion, the Committee heard testimony from a number of witnesses on juvenile justice issues, including the prosecution of youth as adults. In her testimony Ryan stated that, "An overwhelming body of research shows that prosecuting youth as adults does not work. Over the past three years, we have witnessed a steady stream of research demonstrating unequivocally that trying and sentencing children in adult court does not reduce crime; in fact, it does just the opposite." Further, Ryan noted that, "In light of the research, particularly the data showing that youth prosecuted in adult criminal court are much more likely to re-offend than similarly situated youth in the juvenile justice system, a number of states have begun to reexamine their states policies and several states have changed their policies."

According to Ryan, states have undertaken or are considering undertaking a number of policy reforms in these areas:

1. Changing the age at which youth can be eligible to be considered in adult criminal court, which Nevada did in the last session;
2. Changing the types of crimes for which youth can be eligible to be considered in adult criminal court;
3. Ending the automatic prosecution of all youth at certain ages in adult criminal court, such as at age 16 or 17;
4. Narrowing the circumstances under which youth can be placed in adult jails pretrial;
5. Removing youth from adult jails and prisons pretrial and post-conviction;
6. Providing adult criminal court judges additional discretion on whether to send youth back to juvenile court rather than prosecuting youth in adult court;
7. Changing the law to disallow youth to be subsequently tried in adult criminal court if they have been tried in adult court once; and
8. Disallowing adult mandatory minimums from applying to juveniles.

A full copy of Ryan's testimony to Nevada's Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice is available online at

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/expert-testimony.html>.

New Just Kids Campaign Seeks to End the Incarceration of Youth in Adult Jails in Maryland

The Just Kids Campaign, a new partnership between Community Law in Action (CLIA), the Public Justice Center, and the Eric Villines Advocacy Institute, seeks to reduce and eventually end the incarceration of youth in adult jails in Maryland.

Currently, the State of Maryland is proposing to build a new jail for youth who are tried as adults. In Maryland, youth 14 to 17 years of age, may be charged and tried as adults when accused of committing certain crimes. On any given day the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), the only state-operated jail in Maryland, holds about 100 youth charged as adults. There is little information available about this young population, but youth advocates estimate that many of these youth are released or returned to the juvenile justice system after spending six to twelve months in the adult jail.

The new jail for youth charged as adults proposed by the State will cost taxpayers about \$105 million. The Just Kids Campaign wants the State to delay the construction of the new facility until it has considered more

cost-effective alternatives. Just Kids is investigating these alternatives, has issued a position paper (available at <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/state-by-state.html>), and hopes to share their complete findings in a report to be released later this year.

For more information and to join the efforts of the Just Kids Campaign, contact Laura Furr (laura@cliayouth.org), Kimberly Armstrong (just4me.diamond@gmail.com), or Wendy Hess (hessw@publicjustice.org).

***Lost Talent* Book Release Reveals Stories of Baltimore's Incarcerated Youth**

On March 22, Community Law In Action (CLIA), a youth voice organization in Baltimore, Maryland, held an opening reception and released *Lost Talent*, a book highlighting the artwork of young boys incarcerated at the Baltimore City Detention Center awaiting trial as adults. The youth participated in CLIA's Illustrated Stories program which seeks to tell the stories of incarcerated youth with the public and policy makers through illustration. The program was facilitated by Danyett Tucker, a local artist and teacher, and funded by Kresge Arts in Baltimore, a partnership with the Baltimore Community Foundation. The powerful and heartbreaking stories contained in *Lost Talent* reveal the artists' lives, how they came to be at the detention center, and what the youth hope to accomplish as they grow older.

For more information and to purchase copies of *Lost Talent* visit www.cliayouth.org.

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FROM THE HILL



Tracy McClard testifies at House Education and Labor Committee JJDPA Reauthorization hearing.

House Education and Labor Subcommittee Holds Hearing on JJDPA Reauthorization

Erin Davies

On April 21, the House Education and Labor Committee held a full committee hearing, entitled "Reforming the Juvenile Justice System to Improve Children's Lives and Public Safety," that focused on the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA). The House Education and Labor Committee has jurisdiction over the JJJPA.

The hearing was led by Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA) and Ranking Member John Kline (R-MN). The hearing was well-attended by members from both parties at various points throughout the hearing. The following 15 Democratic members were in attendance: Dale E. Kildee (MI), Donald M. Payne (NJ), Robert C. Scott (VA), Lynn C. Woolsey (CA), Carolyn McCarthy (NY), John F. Tierney (MA), Dennis J. Kucinich (OH), Susan A. Davis (CA), Jason Altmire (PA), Yvette Clarke (NY), Carol Shea-Porter (NH), Marcia Fudge (OH), Jared Polis (CO), Gregoric Kilihi Camacho Sablan (Northern Mariana Islands), and Judy Chu (CA). The following four Republican Members were also in attendance: Thomas E. Petri (WI), Todd Russell Platts (PA), Brett Guthrie (KY), and David P. Roe (TN). Many of the Members stayed through the entire two and a half hour hearing for the opportunity to ask questions of the witnesses and discuss juvenile justice issues in light of reauthorization.

The hearing focused on various aspects of JJJPA reauthorization, including the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the four JJJPA core protections: jail removal,

sight and sound separation, disproportionate minority contact, and deinstitutionalization of status offenders
Witnesses testifying at the hearing included:

- **Judge Steven Teske**, Clayton County Juvenile Court, Georgia
- **A. Hasan Davis**, Deputy Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice
- **Michael Belton**, Deputy Director of Juvenile Corrections for Ramsey County, Minnesota
- **Tracy McClard**, CFYJ spokesperson and mother of a child who committed suicide in an adult facility in Jackson, Missouri
- **John Solberg**, Executive Director of the Rawhide Boys Ranch in New London, Wisconsin
- **Scott Burns**, Executive Director of the National District Attorneys Association in Alexandria, VA

CFYJ spokesperson Tracy McClard gave an amazingly powerful testimony about her son Jonathan's experience in the adult criminal justice system and how the system ultimately took his life when he committed suicide after being prosecuted as an adult. Many of the Members personally thanked Tracy for her testimony including Representative Platts who gave Tracy a very heartfelt thank you as the parent of two young sons.

Witness testimony as well as video and pictures from the hearing can be found at <http://edlabor.house.gov/hearings/2010/04/reforming-the-juvenile-justice.shtml>.

Obama Administration Supports JJDP A Reauthorization

On April 15, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a letter stating strong support for the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A). The letter highlighted the significant improvements proposed by the reauthorization legislation and stated that, "Supporting and improving the juvenile justice system and preventing youth violence and delinquency are among the Attorney General's top priorities."



Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) responded with a public statement, saying that, "This reauthorization bill pushes forward new ways to help children move out of the criminal justice system, return to school, and become responsible, hard-working members of our communities. I know that Attorney General Holder shares these priorities."

The full text of Chairman Leahy's statement can be found at http://leahy.senate.gov/press/press_releases/release/?id=fa763850-44ec-4d2e-8b5b-b98b7884aba0. The full text of the DOJ letter can be found at <http://judiciary.senate.gov/resources/documents/111thCongress/upload/041510DOJViewsLetterJJDP A.pdf>.

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RESEARCH AND POLICY

Take Action on the Prison Rape Elimination Act

Neelum Arya



The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into law by President Bush in 2003 to address sexual violence behind bars. A key component of the law was the creation of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission (NPREC), a bipartisan federal commission charged with developing national standards to address prisoner rape

which would apply to all detention facilities, including federal and state prisons, jails, police lock-ups, private facilities, and immigration detention centers.

Through public hearings and a committee of experts, NPREC developed their final recommendations and issued a report, "National Prison Rape Elimination Commission Report" and set of standards which are available online at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/226680.pdf>. In response to the report, the Attorney General has established a PREA Working Group to review the NPREC Final Standards and prepare a draft final rule. At the beginning of March, the Attorney General issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to solicit public input on the NPREC Final Standards; public comments on the standards are due by May 10, 2010. CFYJ and several other juvenile and children's rights organizations will be submitting a formal set of comments by the May 10 deadline. If you are a member of an organization that would like to show your organizational support for the standards, please contact Neelum Arya at narya@cfyj.org for more details.

Sexual abuse in detention is devastating, physically and emotionally. When victims are released, as almost all inmates are eventually, they carry their trauma and health problems with them back to their communities. Those interested supporting prison rape elimination should urge the Attorney General to codify NPREC's standards without undue delay. Please sign the online petition available at <http://bit.ly/c6ixmE>.

YTFG Issue Brief Highlights Juvenile Justice Best Practice Recommendations

Neelum Arya

On April 5, the Youth Transition Funders Group (YTFG), a network of grant-makers whose mission is to help all youth make a successful transition to adulthood by age 25, released a new issue brief, "Connected by 25: Effective Policy Solutions for Vulnerable Youth." YTFG asked a group of policy experts to provide recommendations on how foundations can work to encourage effective policy solutions on transition points that often threaten the ability for youth to be connected by age 25 to the institutions and support systems that help them succeed throughout life.



According to the issue brief, "Among all of the policy areas affecting vulnerable children and families, juvenile justice probably suffers the most glaring gaps between best practice and common practice." The brief acknowledges that while juvenile justice is largely a state and local responsibility, the federal government can and should make a crucial contribution. Through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), the federal government can play a vital role in setting minimum standards, conducting and disseminating research on best practices, and providing funding to help states and localities improve their juvenile systems.

To expedite the implementation of evidenced-based best practices in juvenile justice across federal policy and state practice, YTFG has three key recommendations. The first is to restore capacity and funding to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) so that it may serve as a national incubator and catalyst for improving juvenile justice policies and practices. Second, OJJDP and other federal agencies should focus their

efforts on critical problem areas, specifically:

1. Combating the over-reliance on training school incarceration and pretrial detention;
2. Reducing racial disparities in juvenile justice;
3. Combating abuse and lack of safety of youth confined in juvenile facilities;
4. Limiting the number of youth tried in adult courts;
5. Conducting research and supporting demonstration projects to address other pervasive weaknesses in juvenile justice systems; and
6. Strengthening JJDP core requirements aimed at preventing the confinement of status offenders and keeping youthful offenders and adult offenders separate. The third and final recommendation is to improve the juvenile justice workforce by providing assistance to states in recruiting, training, and retaining juvenile justice workers.

The YTFG issue brief can be found at

<http://www.ytfgconnectedby25.org/YTFGConnectedby25FullIssueBriefApril2010.pdf>.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Seeks Data Collection Proposals on Youth Tried As Adults

Neelum Arya

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is moving forward with the collection of more data on youth tried as adults. BJS has issued a solicitation seeking proposals for assistance in designing, developing, and conducting data collection for the 2009 BJS Survey of Juveniles Charged in Adult Criminal Courts. The goal of the survey is to generate accurate and reliable case processing statistics for juveniles charged as adults. The survey will provide information on cases filed in adult courts involving a defendant who was under the age of 18 at the time of the crime. The sample will be drawn from all such felony and misdemeanor cases arraigned in adult criminal courts in 2009 in a national or sub-national sample. This project will involve both a design and data collection component and will track juvenile defendants for one year or up to two years for murder. BJS anticipates making one award of up to \$500,000 to complete this work.

CFYJ will be drafting a set of recommendations for those interested in applying for the BJS solicitation. If you are interested in applying for the solicitation or have other related questions please contact Neelum Arya at narya@cfyj.org. A copy of the solicitation available at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/sjacc09sol.pdf> and an article by John Kelly about the survey is available at http://www.youthtoday.org/talk/comments.cfm?blog_id=326&topic=20.

BJS previously conducted a survey of juveniles in adult courts in the nation's 75 most populous counties in 1998, on which BJS authored two reports, Juvenile Felony Defendants in Criminal Courts (1998) and Juvenile Felony Defendants in Criminal Courts (2003). These reports can be accessed at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/>.

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NATIONAL MOMENTUM



Over 100 Organizations Have Signed-on to the National Resolution!

Roger Ghatt

Thanks to your support, over 100 organizations have signed on to the National Resolution to end the prosecution of youth as adults.

Organizations from twenty states ranging from Connecticut to California and Ohio to Mississippi have shown their commitment to keeping young people out of the adult criminal justice system. The Campaign would like to build on this tremendous support by getting your organization to sign today!

If your organization has not signed on to the Resolution, please consider signing today. To sign-on to the Resolution, contact the Campaign at jjstate@cfyj.org.

The text of the National Resolution is available at

http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/cfyj_resolution210.pdf.

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MEDIA WRAP



Tracy McClard speaks with Rep. Bobby Scott at the JJDPA Reauthorization hearing.

House JJDPA Reauthorization Hearing Generates Significant Media Coverage

The House Education and Labor Committee hearing on the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) garnered a great deal of media attention this month. Tracy McClard, CFYJ spokesperson and mother of a child who committed suicide in an adult facility in Missouri, testified at the hearing and was featured in following stories:

- [A son's suicide inspires mother to fight for juvenile justice](#) - *The Huffington Post*
- [House Gets Started on Juvenile Justice Reauthorization](#) - *Youth Today*
- [Local parent testifies at hearing on juvenile detention center reform](#) - *Southeast Missourian*
- [Jackson mother testifies before Congress](#) - KFVS-TV

Further coverage of the hearing, including testimony and pictures, is available from the House Committee's webpage at <http://edlabor.house.gov/hearings/2010/04/reforming-the-juvenile-justice.shtml>. Additionally, CFYJ's Facebook fan page, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Campaign-for-Youth-Justice/140348404155?v=photos&ref=ts#!/album.php?aid=168882&id=140348404155>, also contains a photo album of the event.



Calling All Spokespeople!

The Campaign for Youth Justice is searching for parents and youth to join our spokesperson's bureau. We continually speak with reporters and at conferences about youth in adult jails and prisons and would like to bring more youth and family voices to these speaking engagements. If you have a story that you are willing to share or have a child under the age of 24 who is either currently in the adult criminal justice system or recently returned home, we would like for you to be part of our growing spokesperson's bureau. Spokespersons, following completion of the training we provide, will assist with media stories, conferences, and events. Those interested in joining CFYJ as a spokesperson should contact Eric Solomon at esolomon@cfyj.org. Thank you!

Juvenile Justice Matters Met American Idol the Month

This month, Juvenile Justice Matters spoke with American Idol contestant and juvenile justice advocate Matt Lawrence. Matt was an honors student and captain of his high school football team when he robbed a bank with a BB gun. This was his first offense and he spent several years in the Texas juvenile justice system. An offense like his could have given him an automatic adult sentence, but he was fortunate to stay in the juvenile system where he earned his GED and high school diploma and took college courses.

To hear our conversation with Matt Lawrence, go to <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters/2010/04/01/american-idols-matt-lawrence-on-juvenile-justice-r>.

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GET ORGANIZED

Families in Crisis

Grace Bauer

I don't get to talk to families on their best days. Rather, I mostly talk to people when they are in the midst of crisis - a crisis having arisen because their child has been arrested or is somewhere on the short road to being tried, sentenced, or incarcerated as an adult even though they are still a child. I feel inadequate and find myself lacking answers. I feel scared for them knowing that they are powerless and the full range of consequences of these practices will not reach them until years down the road. Truly, it is the families and the children that will carry years of devastating burdens far longer than I.

As an organizer, I want to see the reform that will end these harmful practices, but as a family organizer, I want to provide answers to folks who have a right to understand every aspect of what is happening to their children in these circumstances. I keep wondering whose job it is to give families the information they need during this difficult time.

Many families seek legal advice from the attorneys that represent their children. Providing this advice, however, can be difficult for the attorneys because they represent the child, not the family. While families can and should take an active role in the defense of their child and communicate relevant information to the attorney, such as if the child has been in

trouble before or was a good student, this still ultimately means that the care and concern of the child falls back to the family. Yet, the family often lacks the information necessary to help make decisions in the best interest of their child. How are families to make decisions without adequate information?

Many families turn to youth advocates, for information and help in times of crisis. It seems like these people, the ones that have mission statements that include phrases like "ensure the well-being of youth and families" or advocate for "developmentally appropriate treatment of juveniles in the justice system to ensure better results for kids and families," would know how to help a family. Yet, as the mother of a child once involved in the juvenile justice system and the adult criminal justice system, I discovered that "advocacy" actually referred to "policy advocacy" and in no way helped my child on the day he was beaten inside a juvenile facility.

Where else can families turn for real help and information in times of crisis? Perhaps agencies that talk of a world where children and families live in safe, nurturing communities that provide for their needs, recognize their strengths and support their success can answer the questions of these families. It certainly seems reasonable to assume this potential to help when you read "provide for their needs," but again when a family turns to an agency like this for answers they find little in the way of information and even less in the way of support.

As a member of an organization working to support and empower families, I answer the questions of families to the best of my ability. Yet, even I am limited in what I can do to provide true help to families in crisis. What happens when I don't have legal answers, access to legal services in states across the country where families call from, contacts inside the local and state based systems where their children are involved in the justice system, or access to sources of support that can provide face to face contact and involvement? While we piece together fragile systems of support and do the best we can to meet the needs of families in times of great trial and life changing decisions, this still is not good enough. The lack of true support and information is unacceptable and an answer that most of us would not want if we were in similar situations with one of our own children.

So, who is responsible? Who has the power to bring families out of this lack of information and concern and into a world of true support? We do. As a society we make choices about who to elect to represent us and how we wish to deal with issues of poverty, drug use, and the other social problems we face. These decisions trickle down into who spends our tax dollars, what the dollars are spent on, and what services are ultimately available through these monies. Tragically, our decisions have served to make us the incarceration leader in the world. We must face the realities of these choices and be accountable to the millions affected by our justice system, especially our children and families.

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VOICES

Ed was tried as an adult at the age of 16 and is serving his sentence in California. He



writes:

"I have been given no second chance, not even an opportunity to repay my debt to society. Even worse [than this] has been the effect on my mother. She has been shunned by previous friends and has truly been sentenced... in a sense, just like myself. My mother and I were always close; raised as an only child to a single mother, I owe everything to her. It breaks my heart that I can do nothing to be with her again.

Now 20 years old, I've been down 4 years. My 16-year-old, newly arrested self seems an eternity ago. The realities of prison are disturbing. Overcrowded and inefficient, California prisons have few educational or vocational opportunities. Classrooms are little more than places where students [converse], and teachers ignore all lesson plans. Older prisoners tend to manipulate younger ones to their own ends.

Youth can be more easily indoctrinated into... gangs, and prison is the worst possible environment for a youth to attempt to rehabilitate himself. The system itself cannot expect youth to thrive here; they need to encourage right conduct and assist in rehabilitation. An adolescent who has no hope of freedom is not deterred by administrative segregation or segregated housing units or additional charges. I've seen so many my age, with so much potential, pressured into stabbings and other acts of violence. They've lost all care; they've lost what little faith they had in virtue and society. This makes them a danger to prisoners and officers alike.

Prisons must become proactive in promoting rehabilitation, instead of allowing yards to be criminal training grounds.... Juveniles are not little adults but children who are still growing, developing an identity, and maturing. I don't believe a thousand positive acts could erase my mistake... but I can be a contributing member of society. The old self that brought me here to prison can be replaced by a revitalized, compassionate self. There's so much good I wish I could give to my community if only given the chance. Every day I wake up and make the effort to become the person I know my mother wants me to be. All I ask for is a chance to walk out of here someday and make my mother proud."

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ON THE CALENDAR



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9th!

Check out The Mother's Day toolkit for ideas and sample materials for connecting mothers and their incarcerated children on Mother's Day, engaging more mothers in your advocacy efforts, and raising awareness about this important issue. The kit is available online at

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/advocacy-resource-center/campaign-tools.html#mothersday>.

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TAKE ACTION, SPREAD THE WORD

Urge your Senators to move the JJDP A Reauthorization bill! Send a letter at



http://www.change.org/campaign4youthjustice/petitions/view/tell_the_senate_pass_juvenile_justice_refo

Take Action to support new standards for prison rape elimination efforts! Go to <http://bit.ly/c6ixmE>.

Ask North Carolina leadership to "Raise the Age" of juvenile court jurisdiction. Send a letter at http://www.change.org/actions/view/get_children_out_of_the_adult_system_justice_for_juveniles.

Encourage parents and families who have been directly affected by punitive policies that try youth as adult join the National Parent Caucus at <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/parents-resource-center/local-group-listing.html>.

Follow CFYJ on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/justiceforyouth>.

Send your story of a youth tried as an adult or refer a friend to participate in the Case Profiles Project at <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/tell-us-your-story.html>.

Listen to the upcoming April 1 episode of the *Juvenile Justice Matters* radio show with *American Idol* contestant Lawrence at <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjatters>.

Join the Campaign for Youth Justice on [Facebook](#) and connect with hundreds of advocates across the cou

Visit the Campaign's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/jjreform>.

Read JJ Today, *Youth Today's* blog on juvenile justice at <http://youthtoday.org/talk/comments.cfm?topic=>

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Mother's Day is just around the corner on May 9th! Honor the mothers in your life by making a donation in their name to the Campaign for Youth Justice.

With your help, we can expand grassroots campaigns in new states and show support for reform!

To launch new campaigns on the ground in 2010, we have initiated the "10 by 10" Campaign to raise \$10,000. Currently, we are a third of the way to our goal. Please consider donating \$10 and inviting 10 of your friends to each donate \$10.

To donate, go to <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/donate.html>.

Tell 10 friends about the "10 by 10" Campaign by forwarding this email!

Let's work together to stop these inhumane, unjust and ineffective policies!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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~ Newsletter edited by Julie Kudrna ~

[Tell a Friend!](#)

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