

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR

July 2010 Newsletter

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

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Important State Reforms Underway!

This year, several states implemented important reform legislation to reduce the prosecution of youth in adult court and limit the placement of youth in adult jails and prisons.

Illinois

On January 1, legislation in Illinois went into effect to end the automatic prosecution of 17-year-olds in adult criminal court charged with misdemeanors. Betsy Clarke, President and Founder of the [Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative](#) (IJJI), stated that for the first 6 months in Cooke County, only 109 juvenile petitions were filed against 17-year-olds with misdemeanor charges. According to Clarke, "This is so much less than the anticipated impact." Additional information on the Illinois law can be found at <http://www.jjustice.org>.

Connecticut

On January 1, legislation in Connecticut went into effect to end the automatic prosecution of all 16-year-olds in adult criminal court. In Connecticut, the "Raise the Age" legislation has positively affected over 1700 youth from January 1 - May 31. Abby Anderson, Executive Director of the [Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance](#) (CTJJA), says that "the implementation has proceeded smoothly" and that "the number of youth affected has been as expected." Some of the concerns that were raised during the debates on the legislation have not materialized. "It has been business as usual," says Anderson. One of the reasons for the smooth implementation, according to Anderson, is the [Executive Implementation Team](#) (EIT), a body that is tasked with making Connecticut's Joint Juvenile Justice Strategic Plan operational and actionable. "Everyone is in the room," says Anderson and they are able to effectively "monitor the implementation" as well as "identify and fix problems" that arise. Additional information on the Connecticut law can be found at <http://www.raisetheagect.org>.

Virginia

On July 1, legislation in Virginia went into effect creating 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. Kate Duvall of [JustChildren](#), who helped to spearhead the "[Don't Throw Away the Key Campaign](#)" says that her organization is "promoting awareness of the new law" and that they have "created an update on the new law for the Juvenile Law and Practice Manual" which is a product of the Virginia Bar Association utilized by practicing attorneys throughout the state. Additionally, JustChildren is available to speak to groups throughout Virginia on the new law and has created fact sheets on the new law for attorneys and families. Liane Rozzell, Executive Director of [Families and Allies of Virginia's Youth](#) (FAVY) says that "FAVY wants to make sure that youth and families, as well as the youth's attorney, are aware of this important law change." The informational fact sheets on the new law are available at <http://dontthrowawaythekey.wordpress.com>.

StopBaltimoreYouthJail.com Hits the Web; Take Action!

Eileen DeLeon

CFYJ and Baltimore's Safe and Sound Campaign have created a new take-action website and blog, "[Stop Baltimore Youth Jail](#)." The site opposes the proposed new \$104 million youth jail in Baltimore, Maryland for Baltimore City youth who have been charged as adults. The facility, for which groundbreaking is slated for September, will hold up to 230 young people and cost the state \$8 million a year to operate and \$3 million a year in debt service.

The Stop Baltimore Youth Jail take-action website, at <http://stopbaltimoreyouthjail.com>, contains a video of our first rally outside City Hall as well as resources for taking action and raising awareness, such as a downloadable flier and fact sheets to share with friends, neighbors and email contacts. As the project continues we will post news updates and any media mentions of the proposed youth jail. We would like your feedback and encourage all of our readers to comment on our posts and ask us any questions that come to mind.

If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to let Maryland Governor O'Malley know that we do not need this new jail by signing the [online petition](#). Then please spread the word by posting the link on your Facebook page, Twitter feed, or blog to

let your friends and networks know to do the same.

In addition to Governor O'Malley, two other Maryland officials need to hear from us about this issue: Maryland State Comptroller Peter Franchot (pfranchot@comp.state.md.us, 410-260-7801 or 1-800-552-3941) and State Treasurer Nancy Kopp (410-260-7335). Please tell each of them that we do not need another jail for our children.

Thank you for your efforts! Please spread the word!

New Jersey Creates Juvenile Transfer Task Force

In the 2010 legislative session of the New Jersey General Assembly, legislation, A973, was passed to create a "Juvenile Transfer Task Force" to study, evaluate, and develop recommendations concerning the transfer of juveniles from the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system. Sponsored by Assembly members Gordon Johnson (D-Bergen), Albert Coutinho (D-Essex), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-Mercer) and Elease Evans (D-Passaic), the bill cites a November 2007 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report, "[Effects on Violence of Laws and Policies Facilitating the Transfer of Youth from the Juvenile to the Adult Justice System](#)." The report finds that youth who are transferred to the adult criminal justice system are 34% more likely to reoffend than youth in the juvenile justice system and states that "it is in the public interest for the state to establish a task force to study and make recommendations concerning the statutes that permit juveniles to be tried as adults in the criminal justice system."

This legislation, passed at the end of June, creates a Juvenile Transfer Task Force which shall report findings and recommendations within 12 months of the first organizational meeting of the task force. The bill as introduced can be found http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/A1000/973_11.HTM.

Update on North Carolina's "Raise the Age" Campaign!



North Carolina is one of only two states in the nation that automatically prosecutes all 16- and 17-year-olds charged with a crime in the adult criminal justice system. Over the next six months, the Youth Accountability Planning Task Force, established by the North Carolina legislature, is examining the issue of juvenile age jurisdiction in the State of North Carolina. The task force is expected to hold hearings in the fall and report on its findings in January, 2011. For background and updates on the task force, visit <http://www.ncdjjdp.org/taskforce.html>.

[Action for Children North Carolina](#) has launched the "Raise the Age North Carolina" campaign to end the practice of automatically prosecuting all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults. If you are a North Carolina resident or have contacts in North Carolina, we urge you to join this campaign!

Here is what you can do to help:

1. **Sign on to the Raise the Age Petition:** Tell North Carolina's leaders that it's time to join the rest of the country, throw out this nearly 100-year-old law, and put 16- and 17-year-olds in the juvenile justice system where they can be treated,

rehabilitated, educated, counseled, and prepared for a successful life. Tell NC leadership by signing the [Raise the Age Petition](#).

2. **Foster Grassroots Support:** Action for Children and partners will be working during 2010 to move this issue forward by building a grassroots movement across the state, with an eye toward passing legislation in 2011. Help get your community behind raising the age by contacting Brandy Bynum at brandy@ncchild.org.
3. **Share Your Story:** We need to hear from North Carolina's youth, young adults and families affected by the juvenile and/or adult criminal justice systems! Action for Children, in partnership with the [Covenant with North Carolina's Children](#), is conducting a "Youth Speak" initiative to collect and disseminate to legislators and other key officials the stories of youth and young adults impacted by NC's treatment of 16- and 17-year-olds as adults. Please contact brandy@ncchild.org to share your story.

Thank you for your support!

For regular updates on the Raise the Age North Carolina campaign, click visit <http://www.ncchild.org/issue/safety/main-area-of-work/raise-age-keep-children-out-adult-system>.

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FROM THE HILL



The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Requests Comments on Juvenile Justice Priorities

Kelly Latta

The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, an independent body within the executive branch of the federal government and chaired by the Attorney General, coordinates federal juvenile delinquency prevention programs, federal programs and activities that detain or care for unaccompanied juveniles, and federal programs relating to missing and exploited children. In the July 8 issue of the *Federal Register*, the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of Federal agencies and organizations, the Coordinating Council published a [Request for Public Comments](#). The request was issued regarding the Coordinating Council's examination of federal policies and practices that affect children, youth, and families in four priority areas:

1. Education and at-risk youth;
2. Juvenile reentry and transitions into adulthood;
3. Racial/ethnic disparities in juvenile justice and related systems; and
4. Tribal youth and juvenile justice.

The Campaign for Youth Justice will submit a public response to this request advocating for juvenile justice reforms and practices, including:

- Decreasing the number of youth prosecuted in or transferred to the adult criminal justice system;
- Reauthorizing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP);
- Engaging youth and families affected by the juvenile justice and adult criminal

justice systems;

- Collecting data and researching youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system;
- Aggressively applying best practices that have successfully reduced the disproportionate contact that youth of color have with the juvenile justice and adult criminal justice systems; and
- Strengthening tribal juvenile justice systems and increasing access to substance abuse and mental health treatment for Native American youth.

If you or your organization would like to submit public comments to the Council, please do so! CFYJ has drafted a template letter for public comments that is available for use. For a copy of this template letter or for more information, please contact Megan McQuiddy with CFYJ at jjresearch@cfyj.org.

Comments must be received by August 9, 2010 and may be submitted online [here](#) or by mail to Robin Delany-Shabazz, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 810 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531.

Thank You for Participating in National Juvenile Justice Call-In Day!

Kelly Latta

On July,7, the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition sponsored a Juvenile Justice Call-In Day. Many of you participated by calling your representatives in Congress and asking them to make juvenile justice reform a priority this year by reauthorizing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A), increasing juvenile justice appropriations, and passing the Youth PROMISE Act.

Thanks to everyone who took part! We hope that this call-in day provided the needed momentum to inspire Congress to revive these stalled initiatives.

Action Items:

If you participated in the call-in day, please take a minute to follow up with your representatives and send each of them a short letter thanking them for taking your call and asking for a written response to your concerns.

If you did not get a chance to call on July 7, it is not too late to weigh in! Please take a moment to call your Members of Congress at (202) 224-3121 or [send them a letter](#) letting them know that you support Congress moving forward on a strong juvenile justice agenda this year.

For a sample follow-up letter or if you have any questions, please contact Megan McQuiddy with CFYJ at jjresearch@cfyj.org. Thanks again for your help and support on this important issue!

CFYJ Requests Testimony on Issue of Prosecuting Youth as Adults

CFYJ gathers personal stories and testimony from youth prosecuted under age 18 in the adult criminal justice system as well as their parents and families. These stories help people, especially policymakers, understand the experiences of those who have been

directly affected by the prosecution of youth as adults. If you or someone you know has testified before a state or county committee on the issue of prosecuting youth as adults please share your testimony with CFYJ! Likewise, if you or someone you know would like to share their story, please do so! Stories can be shared online through our [toolkits](#) or by calling CFYJ at 202.558.3580. To read existing stories and testimony, visit CFYJ's "Real Life" website at <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/about-real-life.html>.

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RESEARCH AND POLICY



PREA Cost Impact Analysis Study Released But No Action by Attorney General Holder

On July 16, the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs released the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Cost Impact Analysis. The report was prepared by consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton and focused on the estimated costs, but not benefits, of achieving compliance of proposed national standards to end the sexual violence of people in the juvenile and adult criminal justice system.

The cost impact analysis can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/programs/pdfs/preacostimpactanalysis.pdf>.

The development and ratification of national standards to address sexual abuse in detention was mandated by the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission issued a set of proposed standards in June 2009, and in May 2010, CFYJ collaborated with several other children's advocacy organizations to submit comments regarding the proposed standards. To see these comments, click [here](#). The comments submitted included the recommendation that children be removed from adult facilities.

Unfortunately, since the release of the proposed standards, the subsequent request for comments, and the recent release of the cost impact analysis, there has been no further action on the development of standards to address sexual abuse in detention despite PREA mandates in 2003. In fact, US Attorney General Eric Holder recently missed his statutory deadline for enacting final standards. Due to this inaction, youth in this country continue to be at extreme risk of abuse.

New Jail Death Data Released by the Bureau of Justice Statistics

On July 7, the [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) released a new report on deaths in jails, "Mortality in Local Jails, 2000-2007," which indicates that suicide is the leading cause of death in adult jails. The study shows that overall number of deaths in jails increased between 2000 - 2007, although the rates went down. For youth under age 18, suicide was by far the leading cause of death in jails. This study reinforces why young people should not be placed in adult jails and why Congress needs to close the loophole in the federal legislation which allows this practice. The report can be found at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/mlj07.pdf>.





NCCD Releases Population Study Opposing Maryland's New Youth Detention Facility

On July 27, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), a nationally recognized, independent research organization, released a report showing that the projected number of beds Baltimore needs to house youth charged as adults is based on inaccurate or incorrect assumptions. In the report, entitled "Critique of Maryland's Population Forecast: No Call for a New Youth Detention Facility," the NCCD states, "The questionable forecast could lead to a commitment of resources that will lock the city and state into years of unnecessary expenditures, both in building and maintenance."

NCCD questions the validity of the youth detention bed forecast for the following reasons:

- The forecast combines youth and women. These should be analyzed separately, due to their widely differing profiles and needs.
- The population data include inappropriate segments of the general population (adult men, adult women, and all youth).
- The arrest data include irrelevant adult and youth offense types.
- The data are three years old.
- The forecast was performed by the same department and staff that would be operating the facility.

"At the very least, the forecast needs to be updated, preferably using a better method. We can already see that the numbers are off. General youth population numbers, arrests, and ADP (average daily population of the detention facility) are all trending down since the forecast was performed, three years ago," says NCCD researcher Chris Hartney.

Congratulations and many thanks to NCCD's Chris Hartney who authored the report and to NCCD's Susan Marchionna for her efforts to promote the report. The report is available from NCCD at <http://nccd-crc.org/nccd/dnld/Home/focus0710.pdf>.

Updated Literature Review on Youth Tried As Adults Just Released

This month, the [Juvenile Justice Project at UCLA Law School](#) released a literature review entitled "The Impact of Prosecuting Youth in the Adult Criminal Justice System." The report was commissioned by the Campaign for Youth Justice and provides an update to the previous literature review on the issue published by the [Youth Law Center](#) in 1995. The report compiles the latest research and reveals the harmful effects of transferring youth to the adult criminal justice system, where facilities are ill-equipped to address youth needs. The report is available online at <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/key-research.html>.

New Report Criticizes the Prosecution of Children as Adults in Wyoming

On July 1, the [National Center for Youth Law](#) and the [Wyoming Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union](#) released the report "A Call to Stop Child Prosecutions in Wyoming Adult Courts." In Wyoming, prosecutors have sole discretion to decide whether a case will

be tried in juvenile or adult criminal court. As a result, 85-90% of court-involved youth are processed in the adult system, including those charged with status offenses or other minor crimes. This report criticizes the deficiency in legal representation for youth, as well as gaps in data collection related to adult prosecutions. It also reveals that most youth prosecuted as adults are denied crucial intervention services that promote rehabilitation. Wyoming lags behind other states in effectively addressing youth crime. However, this report maintains that if Wyoming stops relying on adult prosecution and creates effective juvenile justice alternatives, it can save resources while significantly lowering youth recidivism. The report can be found [here](#).

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NATIONAL MOMENTUM



Fives in the Fifth

Eileen DeLeon

On July 1, 2010, the Campaign for Youth Justice celebrated five years of dedication to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating youth in the adult criminal justice system. To celebrate, we

have launched the "Fives in the Fifth" campaign.

Over the past five years, your donations and outreach efforts have helped to:

- End automatic prosecution for thousands of youth as adults;
- Limit the placement of youth in adult jails;
- Ensure parents and families know who to turn to for help; and
- Elevate the voices of youth, parents and families in the public debate.

Thank you! With your continued support, we can expand grassroots campaigns on the ground to show nationwide support for reform. Help us launch campaigns in new states by donating \$5, \$50, or \$500 in CFYJ's fifth year! Visit

www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/donate to learn how. Donations can also be mailed to Campaign for Youth Justice, 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20005.

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MEDIA WRAP

July *Juvenile Justice Matters* Discussed Baltimore's Planned Juvenile Jail

Scott Reed

This month's edition of *Juvenile Justice Matters (JJM)* discussed the plans to build a new youth jail in Baltimore, Maryland. *JJM* hosted Alexis Flanagan and Kameron White from [Baltimore's Safe and Sound Campaign](#) which is advocating against the construction of the jail. Alexis, a community organizer for Safe and Sound, and Kameron, a high school Youth Ambassador, detailed why Safe and Sound opposes the jail and how they are building a movement against it. To listen to our discussion of the proposed Baltimore jail, go to <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters>. For more information on the campaign against the proposed youth jail, go to <http://stopbaltimoreyouthjail.com>.



CFYJ Expands Online Presence

Scott Reed

This month, CFYJ increased its online presence significantly, gaining hundreds of new followers on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). CFYJ now has a [Wikipedia page](#), which gives basic information about the Campaign and its mission. CFYJ also opened an account on [Digg.com](#), a social news website where readers can vote on news stories. Here CFYJ can highlight the best juvenile justice news for readers. Finally, in an effort to further build the movement against the proposed Baltimore youth jail, we launched a take-action website and blog, "[Stop Baltimore Youth Jail](#)". CFYJ produced a short video on the Baltimore youth jail issue which can be viewed at the site. Please check out these new pieces of CFYJ's online presence!

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GET ORGANIZED

Preparations Underway for First National 5K Run/Walk for Youth Justice!

Grace Bauer

Three years ago, a wonderful and brave mother from Missouri, Tracy McClard, began an annual 5K run/walk to bring attention to the plight of young people charged, tried and sentenced as adults. Tracy hoped this idea would gain a following and someday a nationwide run/walk for youth justice would be held. Finally, Tracy's hope will become a reality on October 24, 2010!

Tracy spoke during a recent [National Parent Caucus](#) call about the runs she has organized and how the events gain public attention and help people to understand the severe consequences of such practices. On the call, families from many states expressed interest in holding runs in their own communities to do the same thing. Together, the families set a date for the event and began planning! This month, Tracy held a technical assistance call with interested families to share information on how to conduct the event and prepare for the big day which will be October 24, 2010 in states around the country.

Enthusiasm and energy for this event is contagious and growing! Now we need others to join us in making this a true national event. We need an individual or organization in every state to sponsor the run for their state. Holding a race costs very little and organizers do not have to hunt for people to carry the youth justice message, the runners, walkers, and supporters will come to you. In the coming weeks and months, Tracy will put together packets for organizers which will include a planning calendar, registration forms, sponsorship forms, and fliers. For those of you who may not be familiar with 5K runs, no worries! Tracy can walk everyone through the preparations and process; after a few calls with her, you will be ready to go!

Please consider organizing a run/walk in your community and save the date of October 24 for the first National 5K Run for Youth Justice! Thousands of families, youth, advocates and allies will gather across the country to bring public awareness to the hidden stories of nearly 200,000 children a year being charged, tried and sentenced as adults.

Keep an eye out for more information from the Campaign about this event! If you are interested in organizing a run/walk in your community please email Tracy McClard at tmclard@hotmail.com.

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VOICES



Andrae is currently incarcerated in an adult facility in Wisconsin. He writes:

"Unfortunately, the majority of my mother's relationships were abusive ones. I eventually became the victim of said abuse at [her] hands... and ultimately grew up believing abuse and violence were normal.

There was never really a solid father-figure in my household. My mother was both my mother and my father for the most part, and she did what she thought was best at raising four boys in inner-city Milwaukee. My mother always kept a job, and I did everything I could to contribute to our household, but I could never do enough. My mother was never satisfied with my efforts be them at home or at school. Life was hard for me and only got harder once my mother started using drugs, which caused me to give up on her, myself, and life as a whole. I turned to the streets; not only did the streets often prove safer for me than life at home, but they also provided me with an avenue to act out....

Six days after my sixteenth birthday, I was arrested. After a week or so in the juvenile justice system I was waived to adult court and subsequently convicted and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole until the year 2037. I'll be 61 years old when I simply become eligible to see the parole board. Ironically, the parole board will be made up of a group of people that probably aren't even born yet.

I was one of the first teenagers to enter this adult facility in Wisconsin. My first few years were very difficult because I was pulled in many different directions and was constantly on the verge of being taken advantage of in one way or another. I came to prison thinking I knew everything when in reality I knew nothing, but at 16 years old you couldn't tell me that. Although sentenced as an adult and forced to live with adults, in many ways I was still considered a child. For instance, I was unable to purchase tobacco products because I was a minor. It's contradictory how so many young people are considered adults during sentencing, but still expected to [adhere to the rules governing] children, even while incarcerated.

It wasn't until 10 years or so into my incarceration that I really started to feel the pain of having to spend the rest of my life in prison as I started to realize how much I hadn't experienced in life and had thereby taken for granted. Early on in my sentence my family came to visit me often, but as the years passed the visits came less and less until they stopped altogether. Before I knew it, my brothers were grown men. I knew nothing about them, nor they of me. I'm still saddened by that because my brothers mean the world to me. I consider prison to be a wedge that was plunged between my family and I.

In 2004, my mother passed away. I hadn't seen her for five years. It pains me to know that she'll never know the man I've become. Then, in 2006, my grandmother lost her battle with cancer. She was my only real connection to the outside world. Here in Wisconsin [inmates] are not allowed to attend funerals so I was unable to pay my last respects. I can't possibly put into words what it feels like to lose someone while incarcerated. It's been by the grace of God that I've been able to allow my time to work for me, as opposed to against me. Surely my mother and grandmother wouldn't have wanted it any other way."

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PASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS

Featured Volunteer: Kyle Lafferty

Eileen DeLeon



Kyle Lafferty, originally from Philadelphia, volunteers with the Campaign by responding to prison correspondence. Kyle's passion for youth issues stems from her education and teaching experiences in which she earned a Masters in Education from Pace University, a Masters of Public Health from Columbia University, and taught 7th and 8th grade special education in the Bronx, NY.



Kyle says her correspondence with prisoners at CFYJ reminds her of former students through whom she saw how certain systems in our country can sometimes fail young people. During her teaching years, she was both confused and disappointed by the structures within her school and the larger New York City school system that marginalized youth with learning disabilities, the severe lack of resources for students with special needs, and the manner in which some students were passed through the education system without their needs being met. Now at CFYJ she is again seeing how certain systems set our young people up to fail. She says, "I am well aware of the studies showing high levels of learning disabilities and lower levels of literacy among incarcerated individuals, and I can't help but think about the obvious correlation between our failing school systems and growing prison populations."

Kyle values each of the letters she receives as a volunteer at CFYJ. "The stories told are all personal and hopeful and always appreciated." In her spare time Kyle enjoys volunteering and spending time with friends and family.

Thanks Kyle for your dedication to youth and service to CFYJ!

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ON THE CALENDAR



October 24: Save the Date for the First National Campaign for Youth Justice 5k Run/Walk!

On Sunday, October 24, 2010 CFYJ will sponsor its first national 5k run/walk to raise awareness about the tragedy of American youth in the adult criminal justice system. We need organizers in every state to help with this event which will be held across the country! For more information, and especially if you are interested in organizing a run/walk in your community, please contact Tracy McClard at 573-837-7346 or tmclard@hotmail.com. Stay tuned for more details!

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TAKE ACTION, SPREAD THE WORD

Urge your Senators and Representative to support juvenile justice reform this year through JJDP A Reauthorization! Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected to your state offices or send letters [here](#).

Contact Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and tell him, "No New Jail for Youth in Baltimore! Invest in Alternatives!" The State of Maryland is on the verge of building a new jail for youth charged as



adults, spending more than \$100 million dollars! Send a letter to Governor O'Malley [here](#).

Ask North Carolina leadership to "Raise the Age" of juvenile court jurisdiction. Send a letter at [here](#).

Share your story or testimony about the prosecution of youth as adults with CFYJ through the [CFYJ's Case Profiles Project](#).

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

Listen to past episodes of the [Juvenile Justice Matters](#) radio show.

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

Visit the Campaign's [YouTube channel](#).

Read [JJ Today](#), *Youth Today's* blog on juvenile justice.

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THANK YOU!

The Campaign for Youth Justice turned five this month, and I want to extend my sincerest thanks to all those who have supported the Campaign over the years through their contributions of time, money, and energy! It is because of the commitment and dedication of so many to this cause that we are celebrating five years and looking forward to the challenges ahead.

The Campaign was launched through a sense of urgency to stop the harmful and lifelong consequences of prosecuting youth in the adult criminal justice system. Starting with a conversation about an individual case and building on the work of many people over many decades, the Campaign now works all over the country with the youth, their parents and their families who have suffered the tragic impacts of these punitive policies.

Through our efforts and the efforts of those partnering with us, thousands of young people will no longer be automatically prosecuted in adult criminal court and hundreds will no longer be placed in adult jails and prisons. These successes have brought a new sense of hope that change can happen if we dedicate ourselves to it and work hard enough and long enough to make it so. However, we know that hundreds of thousands more youth are impacted each day, and it is with a continued sense of urgency that we continue this fight for, as many have said, "working to end the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating youth in the adult criminal justice system is a marathon, not a sprint".

A few weeks ago, we received a \$10 check from an incarcerated young person who prosecuted in adult criminal court as a teen. He devoted his week's pay, at 25 cents an hour at the prison, to the Campaign and wrote, "Thank you for not forgetting about the youth." This underscores why we work so hard for this cause.

Thanks to all of you, we are building this movement together. Together, we are working to end this injustice!

In solidarity,

Liz Ryan

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~ Newsletter edited by Julie Kudrna ~

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