LOUISIANA

Youth Justice Coalition

PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY AND RIGHT-SIZING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM: SUPPORT SB 301

Louisiana Imprisons Too Many Nonviolent Youth

- The juvenile justice system should respond to youthful offending in the most effective way possible to reduce future offending and help kids grow into law-abiding, tax-paying citizens.
- Just as a bicycle works best when it uses the right gear for the right terrain, our justice system should use different tools for different situations, instead of over-relying on the "prison gear."
- More than 40% of the youth in our juvenile prisons are there for nonviolent and low-level offenses, and we're holding each child at a cost of $419 per day.

We Can Right-Size the Juvenile Justice System – and Get Data to Ensure that the System Is Working

- SB 301 will save money and improve public safety by keeping non-violent youth in their own homes whenever possible. The bill uses strategies that have been shown to work in Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, and other states, including limiting the amount of time youth linger unnecessarily in secure facilities and diverting savings to a reinvestment fund so that local districts will have resources to provide services and supports to youth in their own homes and communities.
- SB 301 will also require regular data reporting on our juvenile justice system, so Louisiana can know whether its juvenile justice system is working correctly.

Right-Sizing the Juvenile Justice System is SAFE

- More than 40% of youth in Louisiana's secure facilities are there for offenses that involved neither violence nor weapons.
- Nonviolent youth who have been incarcerated are more likely to re-offend than youth who have been supervised in the community, and excessively long stays in juvenile prisons can actually increase recidivism.

Right-Sizing the Juvenile Justice System is SMART

- Louisiana's prosperity depends on educating and preparing our most vulnerable youth for the workforce. But unnecessary confinement gets in the way of healthy development, and it's worse than community programs at preparing youth for school and jobs.

Right-Sizing the Juvenile Justice System is COST-EFFECTIVE

- The newest juvenile prison in Louisiana, opening in May 2016, will cost $11 million annually to accommodate 72 youth, or$419/day per youth.
- Programs that serve kids in the community are more effective and cost far less. In Alabama, the Youth Advocate Program keeps 100 kids per year out of custody and out of trouble – the vast majority are arrest-free during and after the program – for only $75/day per youth.
- With improved access to data on the justice system, taxpayers and policymakers will be able to ensure that we're making cost-effective choices to rehabilitate youth and keep communities safe.

Right-Sizing the Juvenile Justice System is FAIR

- Young people should be held accountable when they break the law, but juvenile prison is not the only method of accountability. Nonviolent youth should receive the supervision and services they need in the community, rather than in counterproductive locked facilities.

To learn more about the Louisiana Youth Justice Coalition, visit us at www.youthjustice.la

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Coalition Organizational Members Supporting SB 301

The Advocacy Center
Agenda for Children
American Academy of Pediatricians – Louisiana Chapter
American Friends Service Committee New Orleans
Blueprint Louisiana
Boys Town Louisiana
BreakOut!
Café Reconcile
CASA New Orleans
The Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning
The Center for Children and Families
The Center for Restorative Approaches
Children's Bureau
Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans
Communities in Schools
CORE USA
The Cowen Institute at Tulane University
Covenant House of New Orleans
Crescent Leadership Academy
Equality Louisiana
Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana
Foundation for Louisiana
Grow Dat Youth Farm
Innocence Project – New Orleans
Institute for Women and Ethnic Studies
The Isaiah Institute
The Jesuit Social Research Institute
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans
Justice and Accountability Center
Justice for Families
Kids Rethink New Orleans Public Schools
Kingsley House
The Law Offices of John S. Williams
Liberty's Kitchen
The Louis A. Martinet Society of Greater New Orleans
Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Louisiana Budget Project
Louisiana Campaign for Equal Justice
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
Louisiana Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
Louisiana Interchurch Conference
Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families
Louisiana Progress Action
Louisiana School Psychological Association
Louisianachildren.org
Mental Health American of Louisiana
The Micah Project
NAMI Louisiana (National Alliance on Mental Illness – Louisiana)
National Association of Social Workers — Louisiana Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women — Louisiana Chapter
New Schools for New Orleans
One Voice Louisiana
Orleans PlaceMatters
Orleans Public Education Network
The Orleans Public Defenders
The Promise of Justice Initiative
Pyramid Community Parent Resource Center
The R Street Institute
SEIU Local 21 LA
Southern Poverty Law Center
Total Community Action
Urban League of Greater New Orleans
VAYLA New Orleans
Women with a Vision