



IF YOU WANT A FAIR AND EFFECTIVE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM... CALL, WRITE OR MEET WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TODAY!

The **Juvenile Justice Omnibus bill** (S.947/H.3079), the **Juvenile Pre-Arrest Diversion bill** (S.29/H.755), and the **Emerging Adult Justice bill** (H.3037) are bills that would ensure that prevent the unnecessary court involvement of youth and would ensure Massachusetts' juvenile justice system is fair and effective:

- Diverting youth with low level offenses from going deeper into the justice system;
- Ensuring Massachusetts uses data and research to develop and evaluate policies and programs;
- Promoting developmentally appropriate interventions that are most effective in reducing crime and improving outcomes for youth and young adults;
- Ensuring youth exiting the system are set up to succeed.

Step 1: Find Your State Representative and State Senator

Go to www.wheredoivotema.com or call the Citizens Information Service at 617-727-7030 or 1-800-392-6090. Your state legislators will be listed under "District Representatives."

Step 2: Call the State House Switchboard at 617-722-2000

Ask to be connected to your State Representative or State Senator's office.

Step 3: Ask to speak to the legislative aid working on juvenile justice issue (sample script)

Hi, my name is _____. I am a constituent of Representative/Senator _____ and I live in _____ (city) _____. I am calling because I support juvenile justice reforms proposed in S.947/H.3079 and S.29/H.755 and H.3037. These bills would ensure that the juvenile justice system is fair and effective and reduces unnecessary court involvement. I would like the Representative/ Senator to recommend that the Judiciary report out S.947, H.3079, H.755, and H.3037 favorably and that the Children and Families Committees report out S.29 favorably.

These bills would advance comprehensive reform to the juvenile justice system, including ensuring more effective justice interventions for emerging adults.

[Choose one or two talking points on the back to emphasize your support].

Do you think the Representative/Senator could support this bill?

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me about this bill.

Step 4: Follow up

Please contact Citizens for Juvenile Justice at to answer any questions, send in any fact sheets or do any follow up the legislative staff asked for. Contact Sana Fadel at sanafadel@cfjj.org or call 617-338-1050.

Talking Points

- Most kids commit low-level crimes. Nearly all age out of criminal behavior.
- Court processing and out-of-home confinement *increase* recidivism and *increase* costs.
- Formal, pre-arraignment diversion opportunities based on best practices are more effective and less costly than incarceration.
- Developmentally appropriate interventions help kids and reduce crime.
- Massachusetts currently spends the most money on young adults in the criminal justice system and get the worst outcomes. Shifting 18 to 20 year olds into the juvenile system will reduce recidivism and prevent deeper criminal involvement by ensuring young adults are held accountable while incorporating appropriate education, treatment and vocational training.
- To ensure transparency and accountability, we need to collect and assess data at key decision points in the juvenile justice system.
- We need to systematically address the worsening racial and ethnic disparities at all points of the juvenile justice system.
- Ban practices that can cause short and long-term harm to healthy development.