

Young Children in Trouble Need Services, Not Confinement

Sponsor: Rep. Justin Slaughter, Gabel, Gordon-Booth, Ammons, Flowers, Nekritz, Cassidy, Stratton, Evans, Mayfield, Ford, Currie, Guzzardi and Bellock.

HB 2619

What this Bill Does:

HB 2619 increases the minimum age of detention from 10 to 13 to make it consistent with the minimum age to sentence youth to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Currently, young children can be locked up before trial – when they can not be locked up upon a finding of guilt. The minimum age to hold youth in pre-trial detention is currently 10. The minimum age to sentence youth to juvenile state prison (Department of Juvenile Justice) after trial is 13. This bill resolves this discrepancy by raising the minimum age of detention to 13.

CONSISTENT w. NAT'L STANDARDS – Annie E. Casey's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) standards prohibit juvenile detention facilities from holding youth under the age of 13.

American Pediatrics Assoc. finds Confinement as a Child has lifelong adverse health consequences

A new study by the American Pediatrics Association (APA), *How Does Incarcerating Young People Affect their Adult Health Outcomes*, concludes that youth who are incarcerated have poor health outcomes as adults including adult depressive symptoms from incarceration for less than a month.

The lifelong negative impact of detention is especially triggered by incarceration at the pre-teen stage.

Findings from a policy brief from the Justice Policy Institute released in 2006 found that incarcerating youth in secure detention centers across the country can contribute to their future delinquent behavior and harm their education, employment, and health.

Instead of reducing crime, the act of incarcerating youth may facilitate increased crime by interrupting and delaying the normal pattern of "aging out" of delinquent behaviors. Detention interrupts their natural engagement with families, school, and work. Detention can also make mentally ill youth worse, and can increase the rate of suicide.

Numbers are Low:

According to the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, there were **173 children ages 10, 11, 12 held in detention centers statewide in 2016** (down from 436 in 2008):

10 – ten year olds in detention in IL in 2016
39 – eleven year olds in detention in IL in 2016
124 – twelve year olds in detention in IL in 2016.

In 2016:

Counties that held children age 10, 11, 12 included:

Cook	10
Peoria	19
Sangamon	20
Winn.	21

As of Feb. 27, 2017 – No (zero) children under age 13 in detention in Cook.

Better Options to Keep Communities Safe:

The average cost of detention statewide is approximately \$100/day. The average cost of community-based services provided through Redeploy Illinois is approximately \$20/day. **Youth served in the community generally have a higher success rate than youth held in confinement.**

The small number of very young youth impacted by this legislation could be absorbed within the state's existing network of community-based childcare and intervention services. As is the current case with youth under age 10, young children caught up in the justice system for serious offenses could be treated in residential treatment facilities, or group homes that best meet their individualized developmental needs.

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SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

**Juvenile Justice Initiative
Illinois State Bar Association
Parent Teacher Association of Illinois
Office of the President of Cook County
United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations
Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law
John Howard Association
Illinois Justice Project
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Community Behavioral Healthcare Assoc.
Childcare Association of Illinois
ACLU of Illinois
Strengthening Chicago's Youth
James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy**

For more information, contact JJI at 847/864-1567.