



## **IN SUPPORT OF HJR 46**

### **Human Rights for Children in Illinois, Home of World's First Juvenile Court**

**World's First Juvenile Court** - On April 29 1899, the Illinois Legislature approved the creation of the world's first court "to regulate the treatment and control of dependent, neglected and delinquent children." The idea was that it would be a sort of "parental" court to "divert children away from the adult system and give them a better shot at maturing into upstanding citizens." This remarkable legal innovation of a Juvenile Court was rapidly copied across the U.S – by 1925 every state except Maine and Wyoming had some kind of juvenile court – and across the globe as today nearly every nation has some form of a juvenile court.

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/how-chicago-women-created-the-worlds-first-juvenile-justice-system/e1c8262c-a6ae-4c20-8fd3-f9ed4ab26ba9>

#### **US active participant in drafting Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

The U.S. continued to expand protections for children in conflict with the law, providing due process protections through a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the 1960's, and with the creation of the national Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in the 1970's to provide funding to states for prevention and intervention programming. The U.S. was an active participant in the drafting of a convention on rights for children under Presidents Reagan and Bush, and the resulting Convention on the Rights of Children was signed under President Clinton in 1995 but has never been forward to the Senate for ratification. ***The Convention on the Rights of the Child was the most rapidly ratified convention in history and has now been ratified by every nation except the U.S.*** <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R40484/25>

#### **Compliance with CRC in Illinois**

Children in Illinois deserve all the protections possible to support a successful transition to adulthood. The CRC sets forth basic rights of children to survive and thrive with access to adequate shelter, water, food, healthcare and education, to be protected from violence and to have due process rights when in conflict with the law, including the right to be tried and sentenced in a juvenile court.

**THEREFORE, (in the words of HJR 46) we urge all agencies in the state of Illinois, in particular those concerned with the economic opportunity, education, health care, housing, justice, nutrition, protection and recreation of children, to ensure their policies and programs comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**