Reforming Tennessee's Juvenile Justice System

Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018

Tennessee's Current Juvenile Justice System

- Due to a lack of community-based services, many youth are being confined for minor offenses or conduct that would not be a crime for adults.
- Current scarcity of placement options results in youth spending too long in juvenile detention centers.
- Minor violations of supervision conditions result in youth returning to the juvenile justice system.



Taking youth out of their homes and schools following minor offenses:

- Increases their risk for recidivism.
- Diverts resources from youth who pose a risk to the community.
- Uses taxpayer dollars unnecessarily because community-based services are often more effective and are a wiser use of resources.

Proposals of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018

Invest in Evidence-Based Programming and Community Resources

• Expand **community-based resources** across Tennessee, so that where a youth lives no longer determines what services he or she receives.



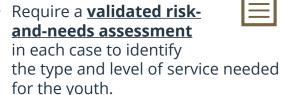
- Reserve detention and out-of-home placement for youth who have committed serious crimes or pose a public safety risk.
- Encourage that <u>youth in schools or on probation not be taken to court or detention for</u>
 <u>minor technical violations</u> that can be addressed by the school or probation supervisor,
 while leaving discretion for schools and law enforcement.
- Implement research-based <u>presumptive limits</u> on length of custody so youth are not placed into the system indefinitely.

Improve Accountability and Data Collection



- Require a comprehensive plan for <u>uniform data collection</u>
 from the Administrative Office of the Courts/juvenile courts, Department of Children's Services and Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.
- Expand <u>performance-based metrics</u> for contracted providers of children's services and community-based treatment.

Provide Individualized Case Planning



 Based on the assessments, develop individualized case plans to determine the services and actions needed for rehabilitation.

