



State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

February 25, 2021

Office of the Governor
State Capitol
1315 10th St,
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Beyond Juvenile Justice

Dear Governor Newsom,

As the State Advisory Group for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJD) in California, per the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA), we are honored to serve you in our role to provide input and information on juvenile justice practice and policy in our state. Our Committee membership is diverse and rich with expertise on a range of best practices and policy issues related to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, as is mandated by the JJDPA. Membership includes system involved and formerly incarcerated individuals, probation administrators, attorneys, advocates, psychologists, judicial officers, and more.

This brief includes an important set of recommendations the SACJJD has identified as critical areas of need to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in California. In 2018, Congress passed H.R. 6964, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 which amended the JJDPA in a variety of ways. One important change was the focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities. The reauthorized JJDPA now requires, among other items, that states develop and implement a work plan with measurable objectives for policy, practice, or other system changes based on the needs identified through data collection and analyses of racial and ethnic disparities. We recommend the following items as part of the work plan so that California can take specific and actionable steps to address systemic racism, reduce racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice, and take a conscientious approach to reinvest in youth and communities.

We look forward to an opportunity to meet with you and your staff to further discuss the implementation of these recommendations.

Respectfully,

Rachel Rios, Chair
State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention