Take Action for Youth Justice!
Call or Write your State Representative and Senator!

Step 1: Find Your State Representative and State Senator
Go to https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator or call 617-727-7030 or 1-800-392-6090.

Step 2: Call or email your Representative and Senator. If you call you will speak to their aide

Step 3: Sample Call or Email Script
Hi my name is ______. I am a constituent of Representative (or Senator). I am calling because I support juvenile justice reforms that would address racial disparities in our justice system, help young people succeed and reduce recidivism. I specifically ask that you support:

- **House Bill 3420 and Senate Bill 825** will reduce crime in our communities by gradually raising the age of criminal majority so that 18-to 20-year-olds are in a more developmentally appropriate, and more effective, juvenile justice system and out of the adult criminal justice system. The juvenile system currently has the processes and the interventions that result in better public safety outcomes for youth with more serious offending than those in the adult criminal legal system. Proposals that would exclude youth with serious offenses from accessing these rehabilitative services would be a missed opportunity to realize the positive public safety outcomes our state could achieve. The bill is in the Judiciary committee.

- Massachusetts has some of the worst racial and ethnic disparities in the country but we can do better. **House Bill 2141 and Senate Bill 1386** will allow Massachusetts to use data to allow us to see disparities where they occur and to identify policies or practices to reduce these disparities. This bill is in the Ways and Means Committee.

- I also support expanding eligibility for **expungement** of juvenile records. Pending legislation should go further by allowing non-convictions to be expunged, and not count towards the case limit; and reduce the types of offenses that are ineligible for expungement to allow people to apply and make their case to a judge about the merits of their request for expungement.

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

[Include your full name and address in an email]

Step 4: Follow up
- Download fact sheets for all these bills at https://www.cfjj.org/advocacy
- Please contact Citizens for Juvenile Justice if you need helping answering any questions.

https://www.cfjj.org/advocacy | 617-338-1050 | sanafadel@cfjj.org
Contact your legislators | Ask your organization to endorse the campaign
Invite CfJJ to present to your organization | Sign up for an advocacy training
Juvenile Justice Reform in MA
What changes resulted from the 2018 Criminal Justice Bill?

**Raising the Lower Age**
The youngest age that a child can become involved in the juvenile justice system has been raised from 7 to 12 years old.

**Confidentiality for all juvenile records**
Youthful Offender cases no longer appear on CORIs and are treated with the confidentiality of other juvenile records.

**Parent-Child Privilege**
Children can now talk freely to their parents without fear that their parents will be called to testify against them. This confidentiality is now legally protected.

**School-based arrest**
Students in school can no longer be arrested and convicted for non-violent, verbal student misbehavior by decriminalizing "disturbing assembly" or "disturbing the peace" on school grounds.

**Diversion**
Judges can now divert youth from court processing and direct them to their community, preventing them from having a record.

**Limited Expungement**
Youth with only one offense committed before the age of 21 will now be eligible for limited expungement.

**Racial Inequities & Justice System Transparency**
Advocate for data to identify decision points leading to the over-representation of Black, Latino and LGBTQ+ youth in the juvenile justice system.

**Raise the Upper Age**
Shift 18-20 year olds out of the adult criminal justice system and into a rehabilitation- and youth development-focused juvenile justice system to improve outcomes for transition age youth and reduce recidivism.

**Expand Expungement**
Reducing the restrictive eligibility requirements, to allow expungement of court records who have more than one case or whose charges are currently ineligible for expungement.

*Our work for youth justice is not done....*