

Increase Protection for Youth in County Detention Centers HB2767 (Gonzalez)/SB2197 (Villa)



The Independent Juvenile Ombudsman's role is to ensure that the rights of youth committed to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice are fully observed, and to assist in pursuing services for committed youth and their families determined to be in need of assistance.

- HB2767/SB2197 would ***expand the oversight powers of the Ombudsman to county juvenile facilities.***
- Expansion of this oversight is critically needed, as policy decisions have led to more youth being committed to county facilities than to the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- Oversight of county juvenile facilities is limited in scope and not designed to focus on protecting and assisting youth, best practice is to have an independent body conduct the oversight while maintaining regular communication with detained youth.
- Very little independent information is available about how youth are treated in county facilities and the challenges they face.
- The Ombudsman has proven to be an important partner in the protection of Illinois' youth.
- Information acquired by the Ombudsman will be provided to the Chief Judge of each county operating a facility. The Ombudsman will be a vital independent source of information for the Chief Judge and the public.

Support HB2767 (Gonzalez)/SB2197 (Villa)

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