WE CAN ELIMINATE JUVENILE LFOs

WASHINGTON IS PAVING THE WAY FOR DEBT FREE YOUTH JUSTICE

The YEAR Act (2015) made Washington one of the first states to reduce juvenile legal financial obligations (LFOs), and HB2050 (2022) automatically waived detention fee debt.

OUR DRAFT BILL

DFYJ-WA is seeking full elimination of youth legal financial obligations and real compensation for crime survivors. Our draft 2023 legislation:

- Eliminates harmful, discriminatory LFOs in juvenile court
- Replaces youth restitution with a stable, easy-to-access Community Compensation Fund
- Creates a taskforce to design and implement Compensation Fund to meet stakeholder needs
- Waives $40 million in court debt, most of which is more than five years old and "virtually uncollectible"
- Limits community service hours in line with best practices and other states
- Reestablishes Washington as a leader on evidence-based youth LFO policy

OUR COALITION

Stand for Children Washington
Center for Children & Youth Justice
Berkeley Law Policy Advocacy Clinic
CHOOSE 180
Civil Survival
Columbia Legal Services
Disability Rights Washington
Eastern WA All of Us or None
Freedom Project
Impacted youth advocates
Justice for Girls Coalition
King County Department of Public Defense

Legal Counsel for Youth and Children
NorthStar Advocates
SDM Consulting
TeamChild
The Mockingbird Society
The Y Seattle
Treehouse
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
Washington Defender Association
YouthCare

Juvenile LFOs are costly to collect and have low collection rates.

In 2019, WA courts collected less than 20% of the total assessed fees and fines. Agencies and counties in Oregon, Idaho, and Montana spent more on collections than they brought in.

Juvenile restitution does not compensate harmed parties.

Although courts collect little data, the best evidence suggests that less than 10% of restitution is able to be paid by youth and families, a majority of whom are low-income.

Washington is ready to abolish discriminatory, ineffective juvenile LFOs and meaningfully compensate survivors

Questions: etrautman@stand.org | More info: dfyjwa.org