URGENT NEED TO REMOVE YOUNG CHILDREN FROM DETENTION

Feb. 2024

In 2023, there were 16 juvenile detention centers, holding children age 10-18 BEFORE trial. Two centers have now shut down – one following a shooting of a child, and the other based on inadequate conditions:

**Sangamon County** - The juvenile detention center in Springfield (Sangamon) was closed following a child being shot and killed by police after obtaining access to a weapon in the detention center. [https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/local/2023/10/03/springfield-police-chief-details-moments-of-juvenile-detention-facility-shooting/71046287007/](https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/local/2023/10/03/springfield-police-chief-details-moments-of-juvenile-detention-facility-shooting/71046287007/)

**Franklin County** – The juvenile detention center in Franklin County was closed due to inability to meet minimum standards of care and faces a class action lawsuit by the ACLU. [https://www.aclu-il.org/en/cases/maurer-v-franklin](https://www.aclu-il.org/en/cases/maurer-v-franklin) The county still owes $1 million in federal bonds taken out in the late '90’s to construct the facility. [https://www.propublica.org/article/illinois-judge-closes-franklin-county-juvenile-detention-center-failed-to-meet-state-standards](https://www.propublica.org/article/illinois-judge-closes-franklin-county-juvenile-detention-center-failed-to-meet-state-standards)

The remaining 14 juvenile detention centers were all inspected in 2023 by staff from the IL Dept of Juvenile Justice. **Only 4 of the 14 facilities were found compliant with minimal standards for safety for children** (Vermilion, Kane, Lake and Peoria). The remaining ten facilities did not comply with minimal standards (St Clair, Madison, Champaign, Will, Adams, McLean, Winnebago, LaSalle, Cook and Knox) [https://idjj.illinois.gov/facilities/county-detention-centers.html](https://idjj.illinois.gov/facilities/county-detention-centers.html)

See media coverage of inspection results:


And excessive use of solitary was the conclusion in two recent reports documenting troubling conditions in the Cook County juvenile detention center

**COOK COUNTY JUVENILE TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER**


As a result, last year the Legislature took action to end solitary confinement of youth in Public Act 103-0178, effective 1/1/2024. The Legislature also expanded the role of the IDJJ Ombudsperson to include oversight of complaints from youth in juvenile detention in Public Act 103-0397, effect 1/1/2025.

However, the Senate still has to finish approving the agreed to reform to end detention of young children – and the need is urgent given the troubling conditions of detention across IL.

**PLEASE PASS H.B. 2347**