

Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

January 28, 2016

Representative Toni E. Walker
Co-Chair, Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2702
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Secretary Benjamin Barnes
Co-Chair, Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Implementation of the Second Raise the Age Initiative

Dear Representative Walker, Secretary Barnes and Members of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee:

This session I will be proposing legislation to again raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction for young adults to include eighteen-year-olds beginning July 1, 2017, nineteen-year-olds beginning July 1, 2018 and twenty-year-olds beginning July 1, 2019. The proposed legislation requests that the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) prepare recommendations for appropriate legislation necessary to implement the change in juvenile jurisdiction by January 1, 2017 so that there is sufficient time for the legislature to consider and enact any legislation necessary to implement raise the age.

To lay the appropriate groundwork, I am reaching out to you now, in advance of the introduction of this legislation, so that we may work effectively together to consider these implementation issues within the proposed timeframe of July 1, 2017 without delay. JJPOC was instrumental in addressing the issues that permitted the successful implementation of the original raise the age effort, and therefore is the obvious choice to again shepherd the important work of gathering input, incorporating feedback and providing oversight of the implementation of this new raise the age effort.

I announced in November that I wanted to begin the conversation toward raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction and I have, over the last several months, met with judges, prosecutors,

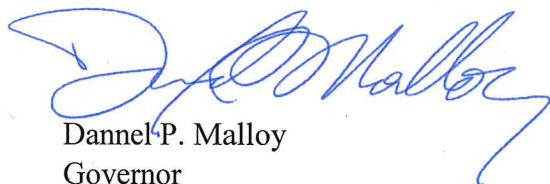
public defenders, police officers and advocates to discuss and get their initial feedback about this important policy initiative. In response to this feedback, I am asking that you undertake a study and make recommendations on the expansion of our juvenile justice system to include young adults through the age of 20, including, but not limited to recommendations on the following issues related to implementation:

- What type of accommodations are necessary for the housing and transportation of the new young adult population;
- How do we remain compliant with federal requirements regarding sight and sound segregation;
- What are the appropriate interrogation rules for young adults, including rules relating to admissibility of confessions or statements;
- What changes are required to rules regarding parent notifications and parent liability;
- Are any changes to competency determinations necessary for the young adult population;
- Are new processes required for Motor Vehicle infractions and arrests;
- Is increased security at juvenile courthouses necessary and appropriate;
- What education requirements should be imposed on the young adult population, if any;
- What new legislation is required regarding confidentiality and expungement of records, especially concerning disclosure rules where the offense involves domestic violence or is sexual in nature;
- Are any changes to mandatory and permissive transfers from the juvenile to the adult system necessary;
- How will supervision of the young adult population be accomplished by juvenile and/or adult probation officers, and what new types of coordination are necessary with agencies such as the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; and
- Is raising the age of entrance into the juvenile system up from age 7 appropriate in conjunction with this change.

Creating a justice system that enables our young adults to avoid the permanent effects of a criminal record will reduce crime and will help our young people have a greater chance for success. It will enable them to have a chance at finding employment, housing and go to school without carrying the weight of a permanent record. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you on this important policy initiative.

Sincerely,



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor