



TAKE ACTION | Fund Communities, Not Prisons to Implement the Raise the Age Law

ACTION STEPS

The Joint Citizens & Legislative Committee on Children are meeting across South Carolina this fall. Tell members of the committee to fund communities and not prisons to implement the raise the age law and include 17-year-olds in SC's juvenile justice system.

- Thursday, September 20th - Greenville County Council Chambers, 5-7:30pm
- Thursday, September 27, Trident Technical College, 5-7:30pm
- Thursday, October 4, Florence-Darlington Technical College, 5-7:30pm
- Thursday, October 11, 105 Marion Gressette Building, 10am-12pm and 5-7:30pm

Here are some talking points.

- In 2016, SC legislators took a step in the right direction by unanimously passing a law to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18. Now legislators must put taxpayer money where their votes are and fund appropriate community-based programs to serve 17-year-olds.
- DJJ can safely serve a number of youth in communities as an alternative to detention.
- It cost South Carolina \$63 a day to provide community-based therapy to a youth, but \$426 a day to incarcerate a youth.
- Most 17-year-olds are in the system for drug and liquor violations (30.2% of arrests of 17-year olds in 2015) and theft cases (23.3% of arrests of 17-year olds in 2015). These youth can be served in the community.
- SC does not need more youth prison beds, we need more investment in our communities!

Contact your legislator and members of the Joint Citizen and Legislative Committee on Children by phone, email, or through social media.

Sample Tweets

- .@BradHutto 17-year-olds deserve a chance to succeed. SC legislators need to #ImplementRaisetheAge #FundCommunitiesNotPrisons
- .@Collins_Neal Youth in the adult system are 34% more likely to be re-arrested. SC legislators need to #ImplementRaisetheAge #FundCommunitiesNotPrisons
- .@KatrinaShealy SC legislators need to fund a juvenile justice system that works for all youth including 17-year olds. #ImplementRaisetheAge #FundCommunitiesNotPrisons
- .@beth4house It cost \$63 a day to provide community-based therapy to youth, but \$426 to incarcerate them. #ImplementRaisetheAge #FundCommunitiesNotPrisons

For more information visit www.raisetheagesc.com or contact Tracey Tucker at ttucker@cfyj.org | Follow us on twitter at @RaisetheAgeSC

