



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONNECTICUT JUSTICE ALLIANCE STATEMENT: LEGISLATIVE BUDGET INVESTS IN YOUTH JUSTICE AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Christina Quaranta, Executive Director of the Connecticut Justice Alliance (CTJA), issued the following statement on Tuesday in response to the release of a budget proposal in the legislature's Appropriations Committee:

"The budget put forward by the legislature today includes tens of millions in critical funding to keep kids out of the justice system and help those who've gotten in trouble get back on track. Investments in youth services, violence prevention, and diversion programs will directly benefit kids while also improving public safety and saving taxpayer dollars in the long run.

"Of particular importance is increased funding for Juvenile Review Boards — community-based programs where kids can be held accountable and supported without entering the court system. These boards have proven far more effective than arrest or prosecution, especially for older kids. CTJA has long advocated for making Juvenile Review Boards the default alternative to arrest for youth 14 and under. As we continue that push, we thank Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and their colleagues for prioritizing the needs of Connecticut kids."

About the Connecticut Justice Alliance

[The Connecticut Justice Alliance](#) is a statewide advocacy and public policy organization working to end the criminalization of youth. CTJA is a youth-adult partnership and works closely with Justice Advisors, young people who are directly impacted by the justice system.

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