

## ***It's Time For Change And CJDC Needs All Of You To Join The Movement.***

### TALKING POINTS ON JLWOP:

- CJDC supports legislation that will abolish life without parole sentences for all juveniles.
- Colorado passed legislation in 2006 that abolished juvenile life without parole sentences (known as JLWOP), however, it only has a prospective application.
- This means that any juvenile charged as an adult after 2006 will have a possibility for parole.
- However, this also means that the 48 juveniles who were charged as adults and sentenced to mandatory life without parole before 2006 ***are still serving a JLWOP sentence without any possibility for parole.***
- Of great concern is the disproportionate number of kids of color who were sentenced to life without parole.
  - *2/3rds of the former juveniles serving this sentence of persons of color.*
  - *33% are African American; only 4% of Colorado's entire population are African American.*
- The upcoming bill will offer these 48 former juveniles an opportunity for parole after serving 40 calendar years of their sentence.
  - *\*Note that this legislation does not guarantee parole, but solely provides the possibility for parole eligibility.*
- To ensure FAIRNESS and EQUAL PROTECTION of the law, life without parole sentencing must be abolished for ALL JUVENILES, not just juveniles who committed offenses after 2006.
- Please join the movement & **endorse this effort by listing your organization's name.**

### TALKING POINTS ON THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PORTION OF THE BILL:

- The upcoming bill additionally allows the former juvenile offenders who are serving adult sentences in prison eligibility for a graduated process that helps with transition back into the community.
- The program would be available to former juveniles who were directly filed in adult court and who have served 15 consecutive years of their sentence.
  - *\*Note- Juvenile offenders who are directly filed in adult court are never afforded a hearing to determine if they are appropriate candidates for adult sentencing. Furthermore, the mandatory life without parole sentence was created for adults, without contemplation of juveniles who may be subject to the mandatory sentence as result of direct file.*
- Anyone eligible for the graduated transitional program must apply to the executive director and be approved before starting the process.

- The process starts by moving the former juvenile to a lower security facility and if successful there, allows for eventual placement into Colorado's Community Corrections program.
- Throughout this process the former juvenile will remain on "inmate status".
- The Community Corrections program introduces the former youth to responsibilities and challenges associated with freedom, while remaining on inmate status and in a controlled environment.
- **Former juveniles, who have never lived on their own, would be provided with the skills they need to succeed on the outside.**
- **Please join the movement & endorse this effort by listing your organization's name.**

QUESTIONS:

***Q: Who Supports this bill?***

*A: Over the last three years, child welfare, racial justice, criminal justice reform, and civil rights organizations have supported our juvenile justice reform legislation. This specific bill is sponsored and supported by Representative Nikkel, Representative Levy, and Senator Jahn. Stan Garnett, the Boulder DA, and the ACLU also support this bill.*

***Q: Who Opposes this bill?***

*A: Many DAs oppose this bill along with family members of victims.*

***Q: What is the Timeline of this bill?***

*A: The bill is to be introduced a week from today and the first hearing will likely be on the 24th of March.*

***Q: May I have a copy of the bill?***

*A: Once introduced, the language of the bill will be finalized and we will certainly send you a copy of the bill then.*