



**For Immediate Release  
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### **Experts Testify in Support of “Raise the Age” Implementation in 2010**

*Hartford, CT* – Today, a panel of experts, including Liz Ryan, President and CEO of the Campaign for Youth Justice, testified before the Connecticut General Assembly’s Judiciary Committee calling on lawmakers to implement the “raise the age” legislation on time and to reject Governor Rell’s proposed budget to delay implementation by two years. The Connecticut law, approved in 2007, would end the automatic prosecution of all 16 and 17-year olds in adult court, regardless of their offense, by January 1, 2010.

“Connecticut lawmakers took important steps to improve the state’s juvenile justice system by approving legislation two years ago to end the automatic prosecution of 16 and 17 year olds as adults, regardless of the offense,” said Ryan in her testimony. “Connecticut cannot afford to delay this measure which would substantially improve public safety outcomes for Connecticut communities. The Connecticut General Assembly should reject Governor Rell’s proposed budget recommendation to delay this important legislation.”

Over the past year, leading national experts from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and the Brookings Institution, reported that youth prosecuted as adults are much more likely to reoffend than youth in the juvenile justice system. [Links to these research reports can be located at: <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/keyresearch.html>].

According to the latest report issued by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics on prison inmate populations, Connecticut leads the nation in incarceration of children under age 18 in adult prison. [<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pim07.pdf>]. In 2005, David Burgos took his life in the Manson Youth Institute, an adult prison. In 2007, another young person committed suicide in the same adult facility.

*The Campaign for Youth Justice is a national organization dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system.*

**For more information, visit: [www.campaignforyouthjustice.org](http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org).**

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