

CAMPAIGN FOR
YOUTH JUSTICE

BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 12, 2014

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National Week of Action: May 12- 16, 2014

"There's No Excuse" Campaign Calls on Governors to Protect Youth from the Dangers of Adult Jails and Prisons

Youth Justice Advocates Lead Effort to Ensure States are in Compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act

WASHINGTON (May 12, 2014) -- The Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ), a national advocacy group dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating, youth under the age of 18 as adults is leading the charge this week to ensure states are in compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act. CFYJ has joined thousands of individuals and organizations that will be calling on their governors to cease the practice of placing youth in adult jails and prisons in order to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

Passed unanimously by Congress in 2003, PREA restricts the placement of youth in adult jails and prisons. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) adopted a standard that restricts the placement of youth in adult facilities and safeguards children in these facilities.

This week, by May 15, 2014, Governors must report to the Department of Justice whether the state has complied with PREA standards or risk losing a percentage of federal funding allocated for justice programs in their state, by complying with the following:

- Banning the housing of youth in the general adult population;
- Prohibiting contact between youth and adults in common areas, and ensuring youth are constantly supervised by staff; and
- Limiting the use of isolation which causes or exacerbates mental health problems for youth.

CFYJ is asking Governors to certify compliance with PREA's Youthful Inmate Standard by removing youth from adult jails and prisons, or at a minimum, asking Governors to dedicate federal dollars to come into compliance with the Youthful Inmate Standard.

It is crucial that governors fully protect children from the dangers of adult jails and prisons. Rather than try to segregate children from adults in adult jails and prisons which often leads to solitary confinement, governors should implement best practices by removing youth from adult jails and prisons.

“The PREA standards will protect hundreds of thousands of kids prosecuted in the adult system every year, and get us one step closer to completely removing youth from adult jails and prisons” said Carmen Daugherty, Policy Director for CFYJ. “We hope that as states implement these important standards they use this opportunity to reconsider the practice of prosecuting and sentencing youth as adults overall.”

Every year, an estimated 250,000 youth are exposed to the dangers of the adult criminal justice system. These federal regulations represent the first time the U.S. government has created national standards to eliminate sexual abuse in prisons, jails, juvenile detention facilities, community corrections facilities, and police lock-ups.

Please visit CFYJ’s fact sheet on the Prison Rape Elimination Act, by visiting here:
<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/preac.html>

Join the conversation on #ImplementPREA #EndPrisonRape. Follow CFYJ on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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The Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ) 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 background on this issue, please visit www.campaignforyouthjustice.org.