

Virginia Gerena
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Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
Connecticut Legislative Office Building
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Good morning Judiciary Committee members. My name is Ginny Gerena, I am a Graduate of Advocacy Unlimited. I am also a member of System of Care, Hartford and West Hartford Colaboratives, and I advocate for FAVOR, (A family advocacy group in Rocky Hill, CT, and AFCAMP, Juvenile Justice Alliance and several other agencies. Today, I would like to petition for the Raise the Age for Connecticut Youth of 16 thru 18 years old. Currently Connecticut is one of 3 states to try these youths as adults – regardless of how minor their case is. Governor Rell has proposed a delay to Implement the Raise the Age bill till 2012, in spite of the 1st proposal of setting it for 2010, which is both not keeping Connecticut's promise to our youth and not within what is best for Public Safety Issues.

Please, we ask for this bill to be passed for next year. The more we delay its' passing the more money and time wasted to the state of Connecticut will be passed on to our residents. Overall, more money will be saved if instead of incarceration for our Youth we invest in Rehabilitation, Support and Education.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Virginia Gerena