

TESTIMONY OF BLANCA RIVERA IN SUPPORT OF SB 796  
Judiciary Committee  
March 4, 2015

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

I am sharing this letter from my son, who is currently incarcerated:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Makee Rivera, I'm currently incarcerated for eight years serving a 15 year sentence. I was charged with a crime at the age of 16, and was sentenced at the age of 18 to a total sentence of 25 years, suspended after 15 years with 25 years of probation. For the past 2 years I have received letters from the Juvenile Review Board, concerning recommendation for all juveniles charged and convicted as an adult. Legislation has been meeting to try to pass the bill or come to a common ground, to resolve this injustice. As you know the U.S. Supreme Court address this issue stating in short that all juveniles should be giving a meaningful opportunity at early release due to the fact people under the age of 18 their brain is not fully developed like an adult to make the right decisions. I am 16 years old and have matured a lot since that age. I am able to think before I act. Since I have been incarcerated I have been able to accept that my actions as a kid were wrong and now I see how it affected other people including myself. I have stride to become a better person, stronger, wiser, but most important a positive thinking man. I believe that everybody deserves a second chance in life; most juveniles which are first time offenders like myself, deserve a second chance to contribute to society in a positive and uplifting way. You, as a representative of the State, I'm respectfully asking to take in consideration on this ongoing situation, juveniles getting convicted as adults, to come to a common ground to resolve this issue. I will highly appreciate you time. All I am asking you is a chance. I am one voice among many. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Makee Rivera