

# YOUTH HOPE ACT

**SB 5266 / HB 1111**

The Youth Hope Act (Sen. Frame/Rep. Farivar) **incentivizes rehabilitation** and promotes community wellbeing **by allowing youth sentenced in adult court to request a review** of their sentence before they transfer to adult prison from juvenile rehabilitation.

**Currently incarcerated youth have drafted this bill and are advocating for its passage.**

## RIGOROUS REVIEW PROCESS

The Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) – the existing professional parole board under current law would review the request, assess numerous factors including their record of rehabilitation, on a case by case basis. The board can keep the existing sentence, or modify it to allow the young person to be released under continued supervision in the community.

***"REHABILITATION IS FAR MORE HEALING THAN THIS DANGEROUS CYCLE OF KEEPING OUR FLOURISHING LEADERS INCARCERATED, INSTEAD OF MENTORING YOUTH AND CREATING PATHWAYS TO END GENERATIONAL CURSES." – RONALD ACKERSON JR., AGE 23***



## DISPROPORTIONATE SYSTEM

Washington State allows some youth to be tried as adults, which often results in very long sentences in which young people will spend decades in prison for offenses that they committed as children. Youth sentenced as adults disproportionately affect youth of color;

**Black and Latino youth are more than twice as likely as their white counterparts to be tried as adults for the same offenses.**

***"THIS BILL IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE IT COULD GIVE ME A CHANCE TO FINALLY BE A MOTHER, AND TO BREAK GENERATIONAL INCARCERATION FOR MY SON."***  
**– LOLA LUNA, AGE 19**



## OPPORTUNITY FOR REHABILITATION

By the time youth charged as adults transfer to adult prison, they have already served multiple years. The opportunity to appear before the parole board serves as a powerful tool to incentivize rehabilitation for young people, encouraging them to engage in education, earn professional certifications, and accept responsibility for the harm they may have caused.

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