

Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Esteemed Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners,

The Community Renewal Society would like to express its support for the Cook County Board of Commissioners' Resolution Urging the Illinois General Assembly to Pass HB 172 to Restore Judicial Discretion in the Transfer of Juveniles to Adult Court.

We are a faith based organization whose mission it is to address issues of racial and social justice. We firmly believe that youth should be tried in the juvenile justice system where their individual needs can be best addressed. Our organization embraces the principles of restorative justice and, therefore, we believe that our criminal and juvenile justice systems should make every effort to rehabilitate and restore the lives of young people.

Automatic transfer statutes have no measurable effect on public safety and have a disparate impact on black and brown youth. These policies take away the discretion of judges in the juvenile justice system to consider the individual circumstances for each youth being transferred into the adult court system.

We urge the Cook County Board of Commissioners to stand on the side of young people and pass this resolution in support of HB 172 to restore judicial discretion in the transfer of juveniles to adult court.

Sincerely,

Alex Wiesendanger
Director of Organizing

Laura Dean Friedrich
Director of Policy